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NOKOMIS CENTENNIAL

1856 - 1956

CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF
NOKOMIS, ILLINOIS

1856 - 1956



NOKOMIS
Daughter of the Moon



FOREWORD

Men in America were moving with the sun. In the 1850's, western lands could still be had for \$8 to \$12 an acre. Tillage began and the other arts followed. Nokomis came to be.

This Centennial History calls up long forgotten scenes and the peculiar sadness of remembered sounds. It records those illuminated moments which stand out fresh and vivid after many years.

Many a Seth Thomas clock still watches the panorama of the years, remembering a day when the sky was blue, Nokomis was young and people wished to be remembered.

This is not a complete record, but we offer it with a feeling of pride and affection for all who have had a part, no matter how small, and those who expect to have a part, no matter how far in the distant future.



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11/10/19
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OUR TOWN'S CENTENNIAL

It is a resurrection of the past -
An open book spread out before our eyes
With narratives that history amassed
For decades which today we dramatize.
The horse and buggy, oil-lamp days provide
The setting for events, when swishing skirts
And bearded faces ruled the day with pride -
A simple life, our story-book asserts.
But simple life which we naively claim
For those days had its conflicts; as these met
With conquest, retrospective glory came
Which magnifies itself in our minds, yet.
As we leaf through the pages of this book,
We overtake ourselves, for we are there -
A part of us - and we find, as we look,
Contemporaries on life's thoroughfare.
These chapters bring us up to date on friends,
Revealing lights and shades along the way -
Continued stories with their various ends
That happened on the edge of yesterday.
As nineteen-fifty-six begins the sequel
To this centennial Nokomis story,
Will tempos which frontiers could never
equal
Add smarter, new dimensions to our glory?

Meda G. Pennepacker Casler,
Duluth, Minn.



Centennial Committee Chairmen

Jack Sale, Glen Loomis, Monroe Berns, Howard Case, Mildred Barnstable, Frank Berns, Alana Dasovich, Wilbur Herzog, Chris Hugener, Melba Johnson, LaRue Hugener, Walter Fricke, Anita Stanley, Stella Yackle.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Frank J. Berns - President.
 Monroe Berns - Vice-president.
 Alana Dasovich - Secretary.
 Howard Case - Treasurer.

Beard And Dress

Jack Sale, Chairman, Lela Schwartzle, Alene Layel, Gladys Bottomley, Ella Sale, Joe Kocur, George Pehanich, George Fullerton, Alva Grauer, Steve Milavec, and Kenneth Singler.

Publicity - Local

Walter Fricke, Edward Ovca, Co-chairmen.

QUEEN - PROMOTIONAL

Melba Johnson, Chairman, Alana Dasovich, Rita Miles, Patricia Bixby, Georgette Benya, Rose Johnson, Lucille Viola, Marie Kettelkamp, Alene Layel, Nelda Brackenhoff, June Obregar, and Pauline Berns.

Parade

Violet Moeller, Lee Dawson, Co-chairmen, George Priddle, Guy H. Wharton, Ralph Scheller, Leslie Sperry, Ed Gould, Mary Collebrusco, Joy Keller, Dean Gould, and Evelyn Johnson.

Carnival

Wilbur Herzog and Clarence Wright.

Eats

Theresa Tosetti and Erma Arkebauer.

Previous Entertainment

Woman's Club and Sorority.

Pageant

LaRue Hugener, Chairman, Esther Nantkes, Salena Mack, Dorcus Thornhill, American Legion Past Commander Club, Violet Zueck, Anita Vercellone, Anita Stanley, Jack Swarbrick.

Outside Publicity

C. F. Marley.

Souvenirs

Rodell Satterfield, Wayne Bagley, and George Sale.

Street Decorations

Howard Bell.

Centennial Book

Mildred Barnstable, Stella Yackle, Co-chairmen, Mary Archibald, Ed Vandever, LaRue Hugener, Esther Nantkes, Walter Fricke, Arnold Woltmann, Emory Weakley, Elmer Eddington, Charlotte Eekhoff, and Mildred Fearn.

Parking

Glen Loomis.

Electric

Chris Hugener.

Grounds

James Guyot.

Tents

Fred Kettelkamp and Howard Case.



HISTORY OF NOKOMIS

Where a man found himself, he farmed according to soil, climate and market.

Where the sturdy pioneer family found itself, it carved a home.

These good neighbors, whether farmers, merchants, millers, doctors, poets, photographers, ministers, peddlers, together with their wives, daughters and sweethearts lived here and loved this community they worked together to build a town worthy to last a hundred years.

Today we are challenged with the thought "looking backward is futile unless it illuminates the future."

EARLY HISTORY OF NOKOMIS

Up to the beginning of the nineteenth century little progress was made in extending the frontier beyond a small strip on the eastern seaboard. There were a few venturesome souls who pushed west and brought back glowing accounts of the possibilities of the regions lying in the valley of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. In 1763 a settlement was made by the French at Cahokia and another at Kaskaskia; these two were the beginning of what was to become Illinois, which got its name from the Algonquin Indian word Illini which means "perfect and accomplished man." Illinois as a commonwealth remained part of Virginia until 1787 when it was conceded to the Northwest Territory and continued so until 1800. By this time there were enough settlers to make a separate territorial government possible, so Illinois was admitted to the Union in 1818. After the admission, a county was made called Bond which included what is now Montgomery County. Montgomery looked to the Legislature to afford them some relief from the cumbersome machinery engendered by the large area forming Bond County. In 1821 the Legislature approved an act creating Montgomery County.

From the first obtainable information it is conceded that the Kickapoos were the most numerous tribe in this county. The first white settlement was made in this county in 1816, the settlers coming from Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, the Carolinas, and Ohio. The soil was remarkably fertile.

About 1834 the town of Audubon was laid out, lots sold, and stores opened. The colonists went so far as to build a courthouse but the people refused to aid their efforts and the investors saw they were losing money so dissolution was inevitable. Other towns in more favorable surroundings succeeded and, as the Spirit of Progress is never actually crushed, the spirit of these towns continued to live and as Hamilton and Woodside became Hillsboro, so Audubon became Nokomis.

There is no better township in the county in productivity than Nokomis. Here are the best stockraising and marketing in the county. In its natural state, Nokomis Town-

ship was one-sixth in timber of oak, elm, and several varieties of maple and hickory.

Bluford Shaw was the first settler in Nokomis Township, who lived here with his family prior to 1840. In 1843 Hugh Hightower settled in section 33 and built the first house within the boundaries of the township. Following Mr. Hightower were R. N. Lee, John Wetmore, William Bonton, Absolom Van Hoosier, William Lee and Andrew Coimer. John Whitmore, living just north of the present city limits, was the first Justice of the Peace and the first Constable was J. W. Hancock.

The first sermon was preached in Nokomis township by Rev. J. L. Crane, a Methodist Episcopal minister. The Baptist congregation was organized in 1856, with Rev. Hueston as pastor. History tells that the Lutherans were active in this community as early as 1852 in Audubon Township; the Daniel Easterday family, from Jefferson County, Ohio, was the first to come, and Rev. D. D. Swaney was the first minister. Within a few years the Lutherans moved to the new town of Nokomis, where St. Mark's Lutheran Church was established.

Other denominations established themselves in Nokomis in the years to come, and more detailed information will be found elsewhere.

The first school is said to have been taught by Henry Lower, at his residence in 1848. It was a private school supported by subscriptions. The first school house was built in 1853 near the former Jacob Haller farm south of the city. It is said that some of the original lumber is at present in the Oak Grove school still standing near the farm.

The first road through Nokomis was known as the Nokomis-Hillsboro road and was laid out in a northeasterly direction. Today it is our main street and an important State Highway which was paved in 1923.

The first railroad was the Alton and Terre Haute and the first train rolled over its tracks in 1855. Since that time the railroad property has changed hands several times and is now the property of the New York Central. The tracks of the New York Central are also used by the Chicago and



Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Schaper
First President of Board of Trustees

Eastern Illinois railroad passing through Nokomis and directly into St. Louis.

A station was established in Nokomis in 1856, which was the beginning of Nokomis as a place of importance, and now one of the most beautiful small cities of South Central Illinois. It was platted and surveyed by P. C. Huggins of Bunker Hill, and Captain Samuel Ryder of Alton, in the fall of 1856.

The first mercantile establishment was opened by Oliver Boutwell the year the railroad was completed. In 1857 the first blacksmith shop was put in operation by A. Swords of Audubon, who also operated a wayside inn to accomodate the traveling public. A Mr. Hart built the first hotel in 1859, the Eureka, located on Front Street. Mr. Hart was also a lumber merchant.

Dr. Welch moved from Audubon in 1857 to Nokomis and put out his physician's sign to practice medicine.

The first marriage recorded in this township was that of J. W. Hancock and Miss Margaret Meritt, in 1853; the second one was of Mr. Borar and Miss Margaret Hightower, also in 1853.

The first undertaker was George Culp.

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NOKOMIS INCORPORATED

The Village of Nokomis was incorporated and received her charter March 9, 1867.

The first board of trustees were C. H. Schaper, president; A. H. Draper, clerk; N. M. Belnap, treasurer; E. K. Brighton, constable and street commissioner; B. W. Henderson, assessor.

Presidents of the board of trustees or mayors down through the years follow: C. H. Schaper, G. H. Upstone, Thomas Triffet, H. M. Randle, John Hukill, John Woltmann, J. H. Weinstein, Nick Singer, Dr. W. C. Hovey, A. O. Kettelkamp, V. C. Singler, F. Kroeger, A. J. Eekhoff, S. B. Brown, Earl Jenkins, Frank Yackle, A. E. Vandever, Virgil Adams, Kenneth Kellerman, and the present mayor, Homer Stanley. Current commissioners are Gerald G. Cain, Alvin Hagemeier, Primo Tosetti and Clarence Hard.

The appointed officers include T. H. Harrison, city clerk; Lee Dawson, city treasurer; Andrew Cibulka, supt. of water; Robert Bowes, chief of police and John Price, supt. of streets.

March 27, 1869, the charter was amended by a special act of the legislature. At this time the city had a population of 700 people, three churches, ten stores and such industries usually found in places of comparable size.

In 1927 Nokomis adopted a commission form of government which is in force today.

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THE NAMING OF NOKOMIS

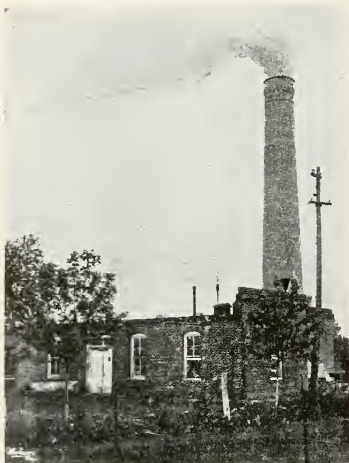
As to the naming of Nokomis several different legends are available. One is of Mrs. Anasa Barry of Alton, who so loved the poem, "Hiawatha", by Longfellow, that she so named the town.

Another is the story of a certain tribe of Indians who came to the settlement and camped in what is known now as Schaefer's Grove. The name of the chief was Nokomis and so the town was named.

Another, humorous and probably unfounded, is one of a traveler staying over night in the unnamed village; upon arriving he asked for a comb. When he was told there was no comb, he named the village No-kom-us. However, the first legend mentioned is most generally accepted.

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EARLY ORDINANCES

Whoever shall, within the limits of Nokomis or within one mile of the corporate limits, sell, barter, exchange or give away any cigarette or package of cigarettes, will be fined not less than \$5.00 or more than \$10.00



Nokomis Electric Plant

for each offense.

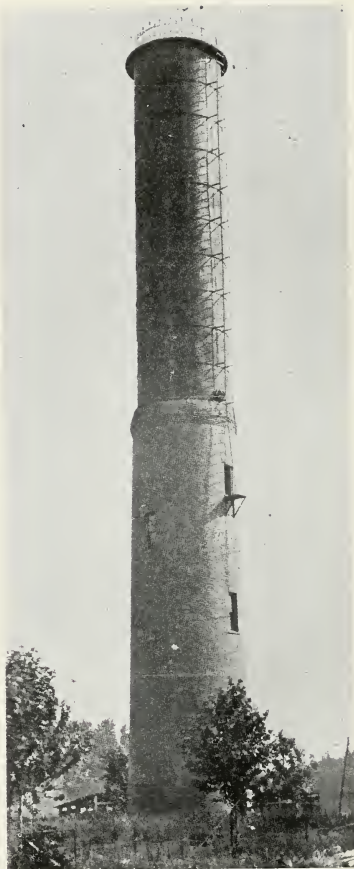
No railroad company, conductor, engineer, or other employee of such company, managing or controlling any locomotive, car, or train shall run or permit to be run, within the limits of said city, at a greater speed of more than 10 miles per hour, under penalty of not less than \$10.00 or more than \$100.00 for each offense.

That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to play at any game of baseball on any grounds within the corporate limits of the Town of Nokomis on Sunday. Any person violating this ordinance shall be fined in any sum not less than three dollars nor more than ten dollars and cost of suit.

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1870 CENSUS

The U. S. Government census of 1870 showed there were 223 voters in the township, 144 dwellings, 185 farms, 534 horses, 130 mules, 240 sheep, 239 swine, 3784 bushels of wheat, 3786 bushels of corn, 803 cattle. There were 16,667 acres of improved land in Nokomis township at the time of the census.

In 1950 the census showed there were



First Nokomis Water Tower

2544 voters, 152 farms, 509 swine, 1504 cattle, 21,688.91 acres of improved land.

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**BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL
DIRECTORY**

In the June 21, 1889 issue of the Free



Nokomis
Railway Station

Press a complete Business and Professional directory of Nokomis was published:

The Free Press, Nims & Ridler, G. S. Upstone, J. Carstens & Son, Dr. T. J. Whitten, Hartsock & McGrew, Arthur Jordan, Blue & Plummer, Paddock, Greenman & Co., Nokomis National Bank, S. Denman & Co., Dr. B. F. Green, F. C. Bender, J. F. Murray & Son, W. P. Blue, J. Brenner, W. F. Neislar, A. M. Edwards, J. Smith, Wesley Birt, W. B. Evans, George Sippell, John Jones, Kerr Brothers, G. R. Spannagel & Son, E. W. Tooley & Co., Nick Singer, Atty. D. H. Zepp, G. Fleck, A. F. Weaver, Griffin Brothers, George Culp, J. K. Smith & Son, Edmund

Collier, Manning & Hillis, Sid Hilton, R. Robinson, F. M. Sawyer, Pufeles & Diamond, Mrs. H. N. Randie, H. W. Belnap, F. J. Pannwitt, M. E. Tuohy, H. M. Todd, Fred Law, J. F. Utley, J. P. Brandt, J. W. Russell, George DeTroy, William Sides, B. R. Steel, J. Woltmann Co., Atty. T. M. Jett, Farley & Monaghan, Dr. J. M. Sprinkle, C. H. McCauley, Dr. P. L. Freeland and J. M. Davis.

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ELECTRIC POWER

On September 29, 1894, George Bliss and R. E. Cornelius were granted a permit to use the streets, alleys, and avenues of the City of Nokomis to construct an electric light

Early Nokomis
Telephone Exchange

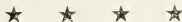
Hazel Hilt
Josephine Schaefer
Julia Epley
Leona Kinney
Marcella Buel



plant, including poles and wires, maintaining and operating the same for light, power and water supply.

A building was erected at the present site of the Green Gables Cafe on West State St. by a company organized and incorporated under the name of The Nokomis Electric Light and Power Co.; the officers at that time were George Bliss, president; A. J. Williford, vice-president; J. H. Paddock, secretary; and George Schaper, treasurer. Later J. H. Crickenberger became the president, W. H. Casselberry, vice-president and S. B. Brown, treasurer.

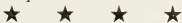
It was in 1912 that the home-owned plant was sold to the present owners, the Central Illinois Public Service Co.



WATERWORKS

The present up-to-date water system of Nokomis is an outgrowth of a special ordinance passed on August 6, 1894, authorizing the city council to make all necessary contacts for the purpose of prospecting for water and ascertaining whether or not there would be sufficient water to warrant the city council to put in a system of water works. There was found to be an adequate supply in the form of a great lake under the city. Bonds were authorized to be issued to erect, construct, and maintain a system of water works to supply fire protection and for the use of the inhabitants.

Since the humble beginning of the city water system in 1894, the city has kept abreast of the times by making many improvements for this famous underground supply of water. There is now a city-owned water plant system with 300,000 gallons available in daily production; a modern intake and filtration plant, state inspected and approved; a water pressure of 60 pounds per square inch; a municipally owned sewerage treatment and disposal plant, adequate to meet all requirements.



RAILROADS

The railroad at this place now known as the New York Central was first known as the Alton and Terre Haute Railroad. The first train to run through Nokomis from Alton to Terre Haute was on January 8, 1855.

A station was at once established at this place, which was the foundation and beginning of Nokomis as a village.

It was in 1903 that the Big Four Railroad, now the New York Central, made an arrangement whereby they shortened their line to St. Louis, diverging from the old line at Hillsboro taking a direct course to St. Louis, and leasing the use of the tracks to the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad, from Pana to St. Louis.

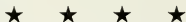
In a talk to the Nokomis Merchants' Association during 1946, the late George Schaper related his coming to Nokomis on the train pulled by a wood burning locomotive. Nokomis at that time had no depot but an office was provided in the old Nokomis Hotel building where tickets could be purchased. Long cords of wood were piled where the trains took water and horse power was used to pump water from the well to the tank. Mr. Schaper came to Nokomis in 1865.



THE TELEPHONE

It was on December 10, 1895 that William A. Howett, Jacob J. Frey and Charles A. Ramsey of Hillsboro were authorized to erect and maintain a telephone line into and through the City of Nokomis.

The Peoples Mutual Telephone Co. was organized in 1902 and operated until 1930 when the two companies consolidated under the present name of the Illinois Consolidated Telephone Co.



POSTMASTERS

Nokomis was first recognized as a settlement of importance when the United States Government established a station here for the receiving, distributing, and transmitting mail. The man placed in charge of the station was called the postmaster. The first postmaster was Oliver Boutwell, who served for two years. He was superseded by H. F. Rood in 1858 who held the post for three years. In 1861 W. F. Mulkey was put in charge of the office for one year, when Mr. Rood was reappointed and served until 1864. Thomas Judson superseded him and served until 1865 when another turn in the government machinery put in D. P. Brophy. Mr. Brophy held the office until 1888 when M. E.



Nokomis Post Office

Touhy was appointed for a four-year term, then Robert Gelly began a four-year term. At its close John Monaghan got the plum, holding it for a four-year term, to be succeeded by Charles F. Best. Mr. Best had hanging on qualities and continued to grace the office until 1915 when he was "ousted" to make way for A. J. Eekhoff, who served 1913-1921. During Mr. Eekhoff's term of office, residential delivery was inaugurated. In 1921, the political complexion of our nation was changed and A. O. Kettelkamp took the position of postmaster and served from 1921 to 1934. During 1934 Mr. Eekhoff again became the postmaster and served until his death in 1940. It was during Mr. Eekhoff's second term that the government purchased property from Edwin Pannwitt and Mrs. Fred Layer, on Pine Street, as a site for the new postoffice building. Work on the new building was started early in 1940 and completed in 1941, at which time the postoffice was moved to the present site.

Shortly after Mr. Eekhoff's death, Charles Ed. Schaefer was appointed acting postmaster, serving in that capacity until August 16, 1941, when Mrs. A. J. Eekhoff was made postmaster and served until September 30, 1949, when she resigned.

Following Mrs. Eekhoff's resignation Darwin Gibson was the acting postmaster and served until July 13, 1951, when Guy Wharton, the present postmaster, was appointed.

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SUPERVISORS

The affairs of the county of Montgomery were in the hands of the county commissioners' court until 1849, when by a legislative

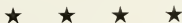
provision enacted under the authority of the new Constitution of 1848, and affecting all counties in the state, a county judge with two justices of the peace, sitting as a county court, was declared to possess all jurisdiction and power as conferred on the county commissioners' court. Although the Constitution of 1848 had provided that counties might, if they so minded, elect to be governed under a township form of government, the administration of Montgomery County remained in the hands of the county court until that body was abolished by the Constitution of 1870.

The Constitution of 1870 also gave the county electorate a choice between two forms of government: a board of county commissioners composed of three members elected at large in the county, or a board of supervisors elected one from each township. At an election held in 1872 the voters chose the township form of government and the county was divided into townships; Nokomis held its first election for supervisor, electing John H. Beatty, 1873-1876; then came James M. Kerr, 1874, 1881, 1882; Robert R. Kerr, 1877-1878; L. A. Swaney 1879; E. S. Smalley 1880; John Carstens, 1883-1886; Henry A. Best, 1887-1888; F. M. Sawyer, 1889, 1907; Garrett Carstens, 1890-1897; John Hukill, 1898-1899; George H. Webster, 1900-1901; R. T. Padlock, 1908-1909; D. H. Best, 1910-1916; A. E. Vandever, 1918-1928; Roy Kessinger, 1928-1930; William Schaefer, 1930-1937; Walter Fricke, 1937-1949; Adam Adams, 1949-1953; L. W. Woltmann, the present supervisor, was elected in 1953 for a four-year term.

During the period April 1921-April 1943 Nokomis was entitled to assistant supervisors; Harold A. Arnold was the first to be elected, followed by John Bottomley Sr., Merle Wright, Loren L. Lohr, Albert Miller, Walter C. Fricke, and Lloyd Davis.

Present members of the township organization include L. W. Woltmann, supervisor; Mrs. Genevieve S. Holmes, clerk; Jesse Eckhoff, highway commissioner; Homer Schaefer, assessor; George Fullerton, Milton Kettelkamp, Edward Pilgrim and Henry Stanley, Justices of the peace. The Constables are Nick Ruppert, Guido Kottwitz, John Bottomley and Frank Farrelly.

An item of interest regarding the period in which the county was under the commission form of government: The first industries to be established in Montgomery were taverns and general stores. These were licensed by the county board, the fees, \$3 to \$6 per year for taverns, and from \$10 to \$12 for retail businesses, contributing to the county revenue. Ordinarily taverns were public service enterprises comparable to our modern hotels. Travelers depended upon them for food and accommodations for themselves and their beasts; the rates chargeable by taverns were fixed by the court. An early day schedule permitted the tavern keeper to demand and receive the following amounts: whiskey, per half pint 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c; breakfast, dinner and supper, each 25c; horse, per night 50c, per single feed 25c; rum, wine and French brandy, half pint 50c; cider, per quart 25c and lodging for man 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.



FARMS IN NOKOMIS COMMUNITY

Today there are some 1,320,160 acres-farms in the trading area of Nokomis within a radius of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The gross income of these farms averaged \$13,200,000 per year for the 10-year period up to January 1, 1955.

Compare these farms, most likely the same ones, with their modern equipment of tractors, combines, corn pickers, hay balers, etc., with a century ago. Then a man could buy 320 acres of land at Congress price of \$1.25 per acre, a cost for the 320 acres of \$400.00. He could break up 160 acres of the prairie ground for \$2.00 per acre, which was another \$320.00. Fencing four fields with eight rails and stakes took another \$175.00. His cabins, corn cribs, stables, etc. would add up to \$250.00. The entire price of the farm amounted to \$1,145.08, the price of one of the least expensive pieces of equipment today.

In the breaking up of these farms, the small growth had to be grubbed out by the roots with an instrument called a mattock. It took from 3 to 6 days to grub out one acre.

Three or four yoke of oxen were used to a share plow, turning up about 18 to 24 inches of turf at a furrow in breadth, and from 3 to 4 inches deep; the sod was turned



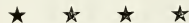
Nokomis Pumping Station & Water Softener

entirely over, so as to lay the sod down and fit furrow to furrow smoothly enough to harrow and sow wheat.

It was usual to break up in May, and drop corn along the edge of every fourth row. This was called sod corn and no cultivation was necessary the first year. It did not make more than half a crop the first year and was used for fodder.

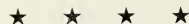
The next year the crop was more abundant averaging 50 bushels to the acre; well cultivated wheat 25 to 30 bu., rye 25 to 35 bu., oats from 40 to 60 bu. to the acre.

In many instances a single crop of wheat would pay for the land, for fencing, breaking up, cultivating, harvesting, threshing, and taking the grain to market.



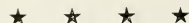
STATE LEGISLATURE

Nokomis has been honored by having three different citizens as members of the State Legislature representing the interests of the people of the district: John Carstens, his son Garrelt Carstens, and C. E. Schaefer, a member of the State Legislature at this time.



COUNTY OFFICERS

Montgomery County has turned to Nokomis for county officials on different occasions: Sheriff-H. M. Randle, C. E. Schaefer, Jack Marley; County Clerk-J. M. Shoemaker; States Attorney-T. M. Jett, Lester K. Vandever.



AUDUBON TOWNSHIP

The history of Audubon township is so closely allied with that of Nokomis that a

short history of Audubon seems to be in order.

Audubon township is composed of ruralities exclusively, and yet they display a splendid citizenship, own and enjoy, with their families, comfortable homes and manifest a thrift in their farming at once commendable and deserving.

The colony of Audubon was established in 1834 and the town of that name was laid out on sections 27 and 34 in township 10, north, range 1, west.

Thomas Price located on section 36. Other early settlers include George Cottingham, Bailey Osborn, William Craig and William Cottingham. A year later came William Orear, Shipman Estes, William T. Slater, Hiram Holmes and many others.

A courthouse was built for local purposes and with hope that the colony could draw the county seat, it being the intention to present the courthouse to the county. The town of Audubon ceased to grow, and to complete the ruin, in 1856, the railroad was built, and Nokomis and Ohlman began to make important spots on the map.

Ohlman is the only village in the township of Audubon. The railroad was built through the township in 1856, but the town of Ohlman was not laid out till some 30 years later. Capt. Michael Ohlman, a retired steamboat captain and an energetic businessman, becoming the possessor of a large tract of land, planned the town for convenience and business. The inhabitants of the thriving little village of Ohlman have probably used good judgment in deferring the matter of incorporating, so long as they can manage their interests without it.

Ohlman has its own postoffice and many progressive business enterprises.

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WENONAH

A mine was sunk in 1905 one mile north of Nokomis. A town sprang up near the mine and was named Wenonah in keeping with the Indian tradition. In literature Wenonah was the daughter of Nokomis and mother of Hiawatha.

The mine employed over 1000 men at one time.

Soon after the opening of the mine a school house was erected and a railroad switch was extended from Nokomis to the mine. Although the mine was closed in May, 1939, the Village of Wenonah is still a popular place to live.

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COALTON

The Nason Coal Company sank a mine a mile west from the corporate limits of Nokomis about 1913. Interested people laid out a town plot, sold lots, and built houses.

The town was christened Coalton, the houses were occupied and more houses were built. As soon as the population would justify, Coalton was incorporated in 1916. A school was erected and for years it was a flourishing place.

After the mine was closed in 1952 a few people drifted away, but the great majority preferred to live in Coalton and drive to work obtained in nearby cities.

Coalton, a clean, attractive village, is a good place to live and has given to the country at large many worthwhile citizens who have made names for themselves and for our community in various trades, professions, and sports.

★ ★ ★ ★
WITT

This book would not be complete without the mention of Nokomis' sister city, Witt.

Witt township was founded quite a while ago, but made little progress till about the time of the sinking of a mine there by George W. Paisley. Later another mine was sunk just north of the city, but eventually both mines were closed down, and Witt is now a prosperous, agricultural community.



Nokomis Lime Quarry

Prior to 1831 there appear to have been no permanent settlers in Witt township, although a number came and "squatted" on land for a period, then moved on, leaving nothing behind but the ruins of crude cabins to indicate they had passed through this territory. The first actual settlers here were members of a family by the name of Brown.

With the building of the Indianapolis and St. Louis Railroad in 1869, the village of Witt came into existence. The first building was a storeroom erected by William Wood. The postoffice was opened for business shortly thereafter in the storeroom of Keys and Bartlett, Mr. Keys being the first postmaster.

While Witt existed as a trading center for several years, there was no effort made to incorporate till August 25, 1898, when incorporation papers were taken out as a village. In this form the town was managed until May 8, 1911, when the town was organized as a city.

★ ★ ★ ★
NOKOMIS RECORD 1856-1956
A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

Agricultural-Industrial Nokomis was founded in the finest American traditions. Many years before the coming of the railroads, settlers took up land in the area, securing the necessities of life from the old stage-coach route a few miles to the south.

It was the railroad that gave farmers their first opportunity for economical shipment of grain and livestock. Nokomis, founded in 1856, sprang up along the rail line, New York Central and Chicago and Eastern Illinois.

Thus, the early settlers of Nokomis, who asked no more of the land than subsistence for their families, now found themselves in a commercial enterprise. It was the beginning of an ever rising standard of living. Yearly the income from their produce put millions of dollars into circulation.

But it so happened that Nokomis also was situated over a vast supply of coal. After the turn of the century, mines were opened to supply the needs of the growing country. Within the past few years, however, demand for coal has diminished and the Nokomis mines have been closed.

Today, realizing the need for substantial, expanding industry, local businessmen, laborers, and farmers are seeking to balance the income between agriculture and manufacturing.

Recently, plants have been established in Nokomis for the processing of milk, the manufacturing of snow and water skis and toboggans, and the manufacture of industrial equipment. With the pattern thus established, Nokomis will proceed to increase its manufacturing to balance its gross income between farm and factory.



Memorial Park

For relaxation Nokomis has two beautiful parks with plenty of picnic sites, tables, grills, playgrounds, hard and softball diamonds, and equipment of various types. The City Park, the older and smaller one, located near the business district, is a beautiful shady spot where children play, friends meet, and travelers rest. The newer and larger one is at the northwest edge of town and spreads over 44 acres. Here are ball diamonds, playground equipment for children, modern rest rooms, a wading pool, and the Park House (the former A. F. Weaver home) which has become the center of many civic and social meetings.

In a town of less than 3000 population, a stranger is surprised at all the merchandise that is available in the local stores. Our city is a wealthy city, and we invite you to join us and share with us our wealth, climate, and the better things of life that make life in itself worthwhile.

★ ★ ★ ★

"The fact that Nokomis has been designated as the point for holding the Republican congressional convention, Oct. 1, 1884, causes our citizens to walk about with a certain degree of pride."

THE EARLIER PHYSICIANS

Out of the past the voice of Nokomis speaks to pay tribute to the memory of her old-time physicians to whom she owes so much: Dr. Taylor, Dr. Strain, Dr. Whitten, Dr. Freeland, Dr. Burwell and others.

With supplies such as they were; with quinine and fever drops; in freezing winter and hot dusty summer; in mud, snow, rain, or storms; at morning, noon, or night they answered the call of the suffering.

For them there were no automobiles, no weather-perfect roads, but only a faithful horse and a saddle or buggy.

Dr. Taylor was a soldier in Lincoln's time, and a member later of the Cottingham Post. G. A. R. He and Mrs. Taylor were staunch Presbyterians, also their daughters, May and Addie. His death was the first break in the Cottingham Post.

Dr. Strain, besides being a capable and dearly loved doctor, was the first music teacher in Nokomis, holding classes in the one room school house. He and Mrs. Strain were also Presbyterians. Their family consisted of Maggie, Kate, John, Stan, and Paul. He, with his big roan horse and high, old-time buggy cheered many a worried family and when he drove away, many blessings followed him, which often was all the charge he made.

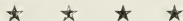
Dr. Whitten is still remembered by some of the older folks. It is said of him, "He brought half of our population into the world." At times when travel otherwise was impossible, he has been known to walk out to the home of his patient. He and Mrs. Whitten were members of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church as was his family of four: George, Harry, Lester, and Lelia.

Dr. Freeland came to Nokomis in 1888. He was successful in his work to which he was very much devoted. He and Mrs. Freeland built the house now occupied by the Irvin Singler family. They had one daughter, Noi, and one son, Lloyd.

Dr. Burwell also belongs in this group. He and Mrs. Burwell were interested in the Baptist Church. Their nephew made his home with them and attended H. S. here. They planned and built the Miss Esther Johnson home on Union St.

More of these early Nokomis M. D.'s were Dr. Welch, Dr. Mayhew, Dr. J. S. Fellers, Dr. Dulin, Dr. J. H. Tilden, Dr. M. Ireland, and Dr. J. E. Churchill.

Another group of doctors came later along with the automobile, which helped a lot, even though it had to be stored during bad wintry weather. They were Wilson, Dennis, Hodges, Hovey, Archibald; as time moved on, Bullington, Hoyt, Vaughn, Irwin, Lockhart, Bastien, and Johnston.

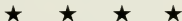


EARLIER DENTISTS

Dr. J. M. Sprinkle came to Nokomis in 1886. He had studied at the N. Y. College of Dental Surgery. He was a member of the Dental Protective Association of the U. S., and was very successful in his profession. His death was a tragedy—he was killed by a train at one of the Nokomis crossings.

Dr. B. F. Green will be remembered by some of the old timers as a dentist of marked ability. With a drill driven by his foot on a pedal, and with gold fillings pounded into place by a little mallet, he sent satisfied patients home. He passed away after leaving Nokomis.

Drs. Opal Lowder and H. B. Singler came later with the newer equipments. Dr. Lowder later became a physician and Dr. Singler a specialist in one field of dentistry, with offices in Springfield, Ill.



"Dr. Whitten has put up a new telephone line from his office to his residence. The instrument is one of the latest improved kind." 1887.

"Dr. J. E. Churchill, who formerly practiced medicine here, passed away in April, 1887."

"Dr. Whitten attended the International Medical Congress in Washington, D. C., for three weeks. The congress was opened by President Cleveland."

"Parties wanting a good set of teeth can get them at the dental office of B. F. Green for \$10.00." 1880.



NOKOMIS CITY HALL

1908



ORGANIZATIONAL NOKOMIS CHURCHES—SCHOOLS—CLUBS

When people gather to build a community certain spiritual, educational and fraternal needs are immediately apparent.

Nokomis Churches, Schools and Clubs have played important rolls in developing these needs. Living, working, and sharing in the responsibility for the success of these organization have added great strength, and strength of character to the community.

The most important job any person has to do is to run his own life.

Everyone has the responsibility of developing his talents to contribute to the work of the world, the nation, the community. Much of this development comes in the Church and School. But the Clubs and Organizations are perfect agents for the expression of local service and public improvement.

NOKOMIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The first school in Nokomis of which there is any record is said to have been taught by Henry Lower in his own private residence in 1848. The first school house was built in 1853 on Section 27 near the late Oak Grove School. No record is left of the teacher or pupils in this school. In 1863 a one-room frame building on the N. W. corner of S. Cedar and South Streets, known for many years as the Hulbert property, now owned by H. Hedlund, was the village school house.



**Our First
School
House
1863**

All classes studied and recited in this one room to one teacher (a man) for a time; later a small room was partitioned off in one corner and was occupied by the juniors under the instruction of a lady teacher. Perhaps the first teacher in this school was Vale Lincoln; two other early teachers were Dan Tooley and "Squire" Walls. The mastery of McGuffey's fourth reader and Ray's third part arithmetic then represented the height of local education. As the population increased, more room was needed for the pupils, so the hall over what was then Mulkey's store (the P. N. Hirsch store today) was rented in 1869 and used for some of the classes.

This first school house was used not only for school but also for church and a place of public gathering. Campbellites, Presbyterians and Methodists held services here on their respective Sundays, and Dr. H. S. Strain instructed what was probably the first class in music organized in Nokomis. This building was later moved to a place near Witt and became a stable on a farm owned by Mr. D. H. Zepp, who was the first principal who taught in the next school building erected in the summer of 1871. To this first superintendent went the work of examining and classifying the pupils and

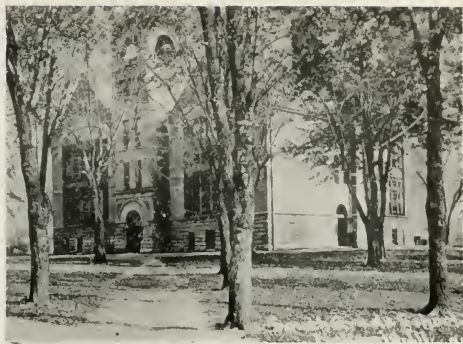


Second School Burned 1899

placing the school on an organized basis; before 1871 the school had not been graded.

The new school was a four-room red brick structure on the site of the present South School. In 1878 two more rooms were added on the east which proved ample for all school demands for nine years, when again it became necessary to add two more rooms - this time on the west. This up-to-date school was the pride of the community and served its purpose. From it 89 young people were graduated, many of whom furthered their education and became doctors, dentists, surveyors, teachers, ministers, and business men; 43 are still living and proud to be alumni of the Nokomis High School. The oldest known living alumnus is Millie Haller McIntyre of the 1887 class. The first class to be graduated was in 1882 and the last from this building in 1889; there were no graduates in 1883-'84-'85-'86-1890 and 1892. At midnight on April 19, 1899 this red brick building and all its contents burned to the ground.

Immediately plans were started for a new building. In May of the same year an election for a bond issue to replace the building carried. The members of the board of education who shouldered this responsibility were A. J. Williford, president; A. F. Weaver, secretary; J. L. Manning, John Woltmann, G. H. Webster, J. H. Crickenburger, and Thomas Ridler. The new building, built of Bedford stone and buff colored press brick with a slate roof, covered a ground space of 2,000 square feet, was two stories high, had ten large class rooms which accommodated the grades and high school, a library, an office, and five rooms in the basement. School started late in the fall of 1899 which caused



Third School

Completed In 1899

many pupils to lose one semester's work; others took special work and made up the time. At that time each room had two sections - A and B - and midyear promotions were made. The corps of teachers beginning in this new building were R. H. Perrott, superintendent; G. O. Webster, high school; No. 8 - Minnie Putney; No. 7 - Myrtle Safford; No. 6 - Mercy Ridler; No. 5 - Maggie Manning; No. 4 - Emma Scales; No. 3 - Ida Strider; No. 2 - Ida McKown; No. 1 - Mary Beck.

The new school was large enough to accommodate the educational needs of Nokomis for many years, but growth of industry in the city and an increase of population soon cried for more class room space. In 1913-'14 some classes were held in upstairs rooms in the Charlie Kerr building on S. Spruce St.; the playground was in the city park. In 1914

a new school was built on Hamilton Street to be known as the North School. This is a modern building of red brick with eight class rooms, an office, two large halls, a heating unit adjacent to the building, and a basement at first used for play rooms but now used for class rooms and a cafeteria. The board of education at the time the North School was built were H. C. Miller, Geo. Schaper, S. B. Brown, John Todd, A. F. Weaver, E. F. Pannwitt, Wm. Brockman. The first faculty members in this building were Clara Burton - 1, Hazel Pennepacker - 2, Huldah Kettelkamp - 3, Ida Peck - 4, Mary Archibald - 5, Edith McClain - 6, Ruth Nieslar - 7, Stella Yackle - 8.

The two buildings were quite satisfactory as now the grade pupils did not need to cross the railroad as there were eight grades on

North School

1914



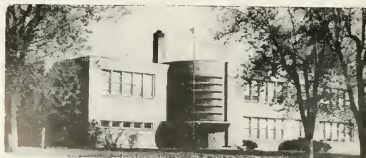
High
School
1919



each side; the high school remained in the South School.

In 1918 all the school rooms were overcrowded so it was again necessary to make more room. This time a Township High School was considered to take care of all high school pupils in the Nokomis Township thus giving more room for the grade pupils in the old school district. A bond issue and site were voted upon and carried. Work began at once on the present high school but materials and laborers were scarce, due to World War I which was then in progress; hence the new building was not ready for occupancy in September, 1918, so high school work was continued in the South School building. Until this time the course offered in high school was limited to four required subjects each year with no choice by the pupils. After the township unit was organized, additional subjects were added which called for more than three teachers (the number so far employed in high school) and more equipment but there was no room. A teacher was hired to teach sewing but there were no machines, and no place to put machines if they had them. With an auditorium full of pupils a teacher would attempt to teach a class in the front of the room. All these inconveniences and crowded conditions were endured during 1918-19. In September of 1919 the grades took over the entire South School and the new high school building was not completed,

so high school classes were held in the basement of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, K. P. Hall (now American Legion Hall), Holmes Opera House, and the Weaver Hall (corner S. Cedar St. and W. Main St.). No doubt many can recall the fun running between classes, the excuses for being tardy, no desks - college students had nothing on N. T. H. S. pupils from September until January. In January the new High School building was completed and classes convened out there after the Christmas vacation. Just the building was completed but no, or very few, furnishings were in. The pupils sat on the floor in the class rooms the first day; the second day chairs were brought out from the Weaver Hall. Slowly but surely things straightened out, new furniture came and all went well. In fact the pupils felt they needed a guide to get through such a huge building with a large auditorium, business department with bank fixtures in place, a science department with elevated seats in the lecture room, a home economics department, an



South School—1942

agriculture department, and a real gymnasium. This building was the pride not only of the local community but of the entire county. Nokomis was the first town in the county to have a high school for a larger area than just a school district. Because of our facilities the meeting of the Montgomery County Teachers' Association and the County Basketball Tournament were held in the Nokomis Township High School.

The members of the board of education who were responsible for this new venture in education in Nokomis were A. J. Jayne - president, W. P. Thacker - secretary, Harvey Case, H. E. Weaver, E. L. Davis and James Herron. The first N. T. H. S. faculty members were W. P. Thacker - principal, Charlotte Holmes Eekhoff, Irma Ellington, Heien Ream, Elizabeth Schenker and Stella Yackle.

About noon on Sunday, Dec. 18, 1938, the fire alarm called many from their homes to the South School only to see it completely destroyed by flames in little more than an hour. So great were the heat and swiftness with which the flames spread, that nothing was salvaged from the building - no records, no school data, a great loss to the school officials. The classes were soon resumed in the Presbyterian Church basement and a vacant house on S. Cedar St.; the St. Louis Parochial School gave one grade a room and the North School absorbed the other grades. Thus classes continued until the fall of 1942 when the present modern South School was ready for occupancy. On November 19, 1942, open house was held for all to see and inspect the beautiful two-story building of concrete with brick facing containing eight class rooms furnished in birch with matching furniture, an office, a lounge, a library, a gymnasium and auditorium combined with a balcony and a large stage, and a modern kitchen. H. C. Kettelkamp, a Nokomis H. S. alumnus, was the contractor for this building; much of the work was done by W. P. A. laborers. The members of the board of education who weathered the storm of building during another war (World War II) were Fred Layer - president, Fred Michelman - secretary, Joe Viola, Roy Keele, Louis Woltmann, Emil Abrolat, Roy Pocock. The faculty who began work in this new building

were Janet McGhee - 1, Velma Hardy - 2, Vivian Gipson - 3, Florence Bosonetto - 4, Mercy Willis - 5, and Frances Baird. May Roberts and Geraldine Hovey in departmental work in grades 6, 7, and 8.

The high school gradually set up higher standards until it was privileged to become a member of the North Central Association of High Schools and Colleges, which permits its graduates to enter colleges and universities throughout the U. S. without taking entrance examinations.

From time to time more subjects were added to the high school curriculum, more teachers were listed on the faculty, and more room space was provided until once again, "the old order changeth for the new," and the Nokomis community felt it should move along with the changing times. The State Department of Education urged a new unit system to take in more territory, to consolidate into larger centers of instruction, and to provide a more diversified curriculum for the pupils. This meant the closing of many country schools and the transportation of pupils to central schools. Naturally, this was a difficult decision for the citizens to make as the country school was the center for all the important gatherings - social, business, and educational - in each district. Gradually the new system spread over the state, and on the third trial, on May 9, 1953, the voters of the Nokomis and surrounding communities decided to consolidate in the Nokomis Community Unit District No. 22 which includes parts or all of the following townships: Nokomis, Fillmore, Witt, Audubon, Rountree, Ricks, and Greenwood. The one high school in this unit is the Nokomis H. S., and the grade schools are Audubon, Ohlman, Fillmore, Coalton, Prairie College, Fair Prairie, and the North and South Schools in Nokomis. The new unit has an assessed valuation of \$19,125,855, an area of 162 square miles, a total enrollment of 915, and a faculty of 52 with 2 full time and 1 part time secretaries. The board members who ushered in this new unit were Louis Bertolino - president, Fred Fesser - secretary, Carl Heldebrandt, Harold C. Herzog, George Priddle, Earl Bauman, and Charles Cachera. With this new unit came many innovations: the hot lunch pro-

gram, the transportation of pupils, a kindergarten, more courses, more teachers, more pupils. Today 13 buses carry the pupils to and from their schools; the three Nokomis schools and the Fillmore school have ten ladies who prepare well balanced, hot lunches in four modern kitchens for all pupils and teachers in the unit; a speech correctionist helps the pupils who have speech difficulties; there is a modern work shop for industrial arts, a kindergarten, all of which have come in with the unit. However, the kindergarten, industrial arts shop, agriculture shop, and the unit office are all housed in other places than in the schools, which is not the best arrangement and which means more room is needed, hence the present rumor of a new building.

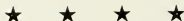
Nokomis can be justly proud of her present school system, the many boards of education, faculty members, and other school personnel who have piloted it from a humble beginning to a widely recognized educational institution of today. Her 2177 graduates have gone to all parts of the world and into many, many fields of service. The members of the present board of education, 1955-56, are John A. Williams - president, Merle Wright - secretary, August Kottwitz, Merrill Mansfield, Victor Micklautz, John White, John Tester and Max Moody, treasurer.

The present Unit faculty members are Robert Ullom - superintendent, Sarah Rhine - kindergarten, James Frazier - physical education, Verna Croghan and Gwendolyn Hieronymus - voice, Edwin Gould - band, John Deagan - speech correctionist; high school - Edward Bertolino - principal, Florence Boone, Mary Ann Brady, James Brandon, Robert Calvin, Raymond Carrell, Patricia Deagan, Ruth Greenlee, Lady Martin Hicks, Louise Hogue, Bobbie Lee Marrs, Nancy June May, Esther Nantkes, Frances Pircher, Raymond Robbins, Darline Tosetti, Russell Weger; North School - Echard Cress, Mae Gray, Cecil Archibald, Maxine Kessinger, Edith Bosonetto, May Holloway, Daphne M. Leigh, Audrey H. Probst; South School - Edris Mabie, Janet E. Sale, Velma Hardy, May Roberts, Florence Bosonetto, Selena Mack, Gladys Bottomley, Geraldine Hovey; Fillmore - E. H. Baumgartner, Genevieve

Flowers, Mary B. Young, Carrie Hoffman, Donald Morris; Audubon - Mary F. Meier, Mary C. Cockerleas; Coalton - Gertrude Hinkle, Virginia Strain; Ohlman - Orrie Herzog, Teresa Pieper; Prairie College - Imogene Heck; Fair Prairie - Marie Tester.

Those who have been superintendents of the Nokomis schools are as follows: D. H. Zepp, 1871 - 1872; Dr. E. F. Newberry, 1872 - 1874; D. H. Zepp, 1874 - 1875; S. W. Culp, 1875 - 1876; L. B. Whitham, 1876 - 1877; W. M. Chrichton, 1877 - 1878; J. M. Dixon, 1878 - 1879; A. C. Hancock, 1879 - 1881; J. M. Dixon, 1881 - 1882; C. P. Schwer, 1882 - 1883; G. F. Miner, 1883 - 1885; J. R. Edmunds, 1885 - 1888; W. B. Davis, 1888 - 1891; M. L. McIntyre, 1891 - 1898; R. H. Perrott, 1898 - 1900; Harry C. Miller, 1900 - 1905; W. P. Thacker, 1905 - 1907; Henry Buellesfield, 1907 - 1914; W. P. Thacker, 1914 - 1920; Chas. Conrad, 1920 - 1922; Calvin Rice, 1922 - 1924; John F. Grisamore, 1924 - 1929; E. A. Lewey, 1929 - 1943; Edw. Bertolino, 1943 - 1944; Mildred Barnstable, 1944 - 1948; E. A. Yund, 1948 - 1952; Albert Manwaring, 1952 - 1953; Robert Ullom, 1953 -

Nokomis also has two parochial schools each of which has eight grades: St. Louis Catholic School and St. Paul's Lutheran School west of town.



Charlie Kerr, May Osborn, Robert Gelly, Clyde Tooley, Roy Webster, Hettie Weaver, Omar Webster, Mable Easterday, Dunn Weaver, Edith Gelly, Dora Law, Martha Handschy, Edith Littlefield, Jessie Pufeles, Eugene Osborn, John Hill, Lulu Farnar, Nellie Hiatt, Della Lant, Willie Bentz, Alvah Randles, Ida Rosche, John Snell, Norman Robinson, Sadie Gelly, Mertie Ridler, Rossie Latimer, Charlie Singer, Lucy Kerr, Meda Best, Hettie Anderson, Harry Hancock, Addie Garrisine, John Shoemaker, Minnie Bess, John Strain, Mark VanHorn, Annie Carstens, Effie Latimer, Alice Robertson, Walter Hovey, Kate Belnap, Maud Manning, Lelia Whitten, Laura Anderson -- names on school Honor Roll Dec., 1887 - neither absent nor tardy for 1 month.

THE SONG OF NOKOMIS SCHOOLS

Should you ask me whence this story,
With its legends and traditions,
With its frequent repetitions,
I should answer, I would tell you,
"From the lips of many people,
From the lips of older people,
From the ones who long have lived here
In this town upon the prairie
In the village of Nokomis."

Long ago the early settlers
Built their homes upon the prairie,
Close beside the railway built them,
That the black and puffing monster,
Might provide a way for shipping,
Might provide a way for travel,
Might provide a way to carry
Messages to friends and loved ones
They had left far to the eastward.

To the homes beside the railway
In this village on the prairie
Children came; bright, happy children,
Making life the more worth living,
Gathered flowers upon the prairie,
Played upon the streets at sundown.

Then the fathers in the village
Straightway-spake one to the other,
"We must build somewhere a schoolhouse,
We must find somewhere a teacher.
Find a teacher, man or woman,
Who will teach these little children;
They must have an education."

So a building was provided - - -
Just a tiny one-room schoolhouse
For the children of Nokomis.
Now this village by the railway
With the Indian name Nokomis,
With the years grew longer, wider,
Grew until the little schoolhouse
Would no longer hold the children,
Who came daily to the building,
Daily hearkened to their teachers.

Then the patriarchs of the village
Planned a larger, better building;
Chose a site upon the high ground,
Sloping gently to the westward.
Here the building was erected.

Out of dark red bricks 'twas builded.
Long and narrow were the hallways;
Steep and narrow were the stairways,
Leading to the upper story.
In the center of the roof-top
Hung a bell within a tower,
And this bell called to the children,
"Little children of Nokomis,
Come and get an education."
Now this building proved a blessing
Through the many years that followed.
But, alas! There came an evening,
When the school was left unguarded,
When in some mysterious manner,
In some strange, mysterious manner,
A great conflagration started
And the ringing of the fire bell
Waked the people from their slumbers.
Ran they quickly to the schoolhouse,
Hurried they their aid to offer,
But, alas! Too late to save it.
Stood in groups around the building,
Watched the flashing flames spread higher,
Watched until the walls had crumbled,
Then they turned their faces homeward
And the building lay in ruins.

Then the people of Nokomis,
Then the Board of Education,
Straightway put their heads together,
Saying, "We must build another,
Build another, better schoolhouse
For the children of Nokomis."
So the plans were found and chosen,
So the builders labored daily
Till a new school was completed.
Out of yellow bricks 'twas builded;
Wide and airy were the hallways,
Broad and sloping were the stairways
Leading to the second story.
And the builders, ere 'twas finished
Placed a tower above the entrance,
Hung the bell up in the belfry,
And its mellow tones, like music,
Called unto the many children
In the village of Nokomis,
"Come and get what is your birthright
Come and get an education."

Far beneath the Indian village,
Lying dark throughout the ages,
Many feet beneath the surface,

Countless tons of coal were hidden,
But at last it was discovered.
Mines were sunk down to this treasure
That it might be mined and hoisted,
That it might give heat and comfort
To the people of Nokomis.
To this village on the prairie
Strangers came; so many strangers
Hoping to obtain employment
In the coal mines near the village.
And the bell up in the tower
Called unto these strange men's children,
"Come and harken to the teachers,
Come and get an education."
And they came until the building
Was quite filled to overflowing.

Then the Board of Education
Talked this serious matter over
Saying, "We must build another,
Build somewhere another schoolhouse
For the children of Nokomis."

So at last it was decided,
So the site was bought and paid for,
And a building was erected.
Far across the tracks 'twas builded
And the children of the North Side
Find their way up to this building,
There to get what is their birthright,
There to harken to their teachers
There to get an education,
There learn lessons full of wisdom
That they may be better able
To meet life and all its worries.

Now the patriarchs of the village
Felt their work indeed was ended,
Schools enough had been provided
For the children of Nokomis.
But anon were heard suggestions,
Rumors of another building,
One to be entirely High School,
Built and kept up by the township.
In good time the steps were taken,
Ways and means were found to build it.
Such a pleasant site selected
At the outskirts of the village
By the highway leading outward
To the Land of Mudjkeewis,
To the region of the West Wind.
There it stands - - - "A thing of beauty,"
And as such "a joy forever."

Now this happy situation
Through the months and years continued
In the village of Nokomis
Until one December morning,
Til one peaceful Sabbath morning,
When the call of "Fire" was sounded.
When the screaming of the siren
Called the people from the churches,
From their homes throughout the village.
Swiftly sped they to the South Side,
Saw the flames spread outward, upward
Through the school that had been builded
For the children of Nokomis.
Watched the flames spread upward, upward
To the tower above the entrance
Where the bell up in the belfry
With its mellow tones like music
Had for years called to the children,
"Come and get an education."
Stood and watched until in embers,
'Til in piles of ash and rubble,
'Til in ruin lay the South School
Where the children had so lately
Come to harken to their teachers
When the bell called from the tower.

Again the Board of Education
Faced a trying situation,
Saying, "We must build another,
Build another, better building
For the children of Nokomis."
Plans were made and blueprints drafted,
Workmen came who were efficient.
Long and well these workmen labored
Until at last upon the high ground
Sloping gently to the westward
The new building stood completed.
There it stands, "A thing of beauty,"
Very modern in its structure.
Walls of yellow brick are builded,
But no tower above the entrance
Holds the bell whose mellow music
Used to ring out to the children
"Come and harken to your teachers,
Come and get an education."

Since the Little Hiawatha
At his door on summer evenings
Learned the things Nokomis taught him
From the wondrous book of Nature
Written in the earth and heavens
Many plans have been adopted
In the field of education.

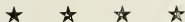
So a change came to Nokomis - -
 Gone the boundary of its district
 Gone the lonely white school houses
 That sat sunning by the roadside;
 And instead, big yellow busses,
 Carefully guided by their drivers,
 Carry from their homes the children
 To the village of Nokomis,
 There to listen to their teachers
 There to get what is their birthright
 There to get an education.

Very grateful are the children
 That so much has been done for them.

All of this points backward, backward
 To a time in earlier history,
 To the making of the famous
 "Ordinance of 'eighty-seven,"
 Which made plain, that in the "Northwest,"
 "Schools should ever be encouraged."

Happy the Nokomis children
 That so much has been done for them,
 Much to make life more worth living,
 Much to bring success and pleasure
 Through the years, until a time when
 Gitchie Manito, the mighty,
 Calls, May each one be rewarded
 With, "Well done! Come thou and enter
 To the region of the Home wind,
 To the islands of the Blessed,
 To the land of the Hereafter,"

Mary K. Archibald



"Compulsory school law should be enforced in this place. Too many boys are daily found on the streets who should attend school." 1887.

"Parents are warned to take care that the ornamental branches do not overshadow the fundamental subjects in schools. Pupils are not as good readers and spellers as those 35 and 50 years ago." 1887.

"Every desk is occupied in the school—
 Oct., 1878. Need room."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY

While our country was disturbed by the terrible calamities of internal strife, a little band of Christians met for the purpose of organizing a church. Under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Gordon, who had been preaching to them for sometime, they met on June 21, 1862. Though organized in the days of battle, it has struggled along, earnestly seeking to make of its members, each, a good soldier of the cross. At its first meeting, a series of resolutions were prepared and accepted, to be presented at the next meeting of the Alton Presbytery. They said, "We deem it a duty we owe to God and for our best interest as individuals, for time and eternity, to form ourselves in a church of Christ for the purpose of better sustaining the interests of religion in our midst and securing the means of grace for ourselves and the community in which we live." This church was known as the First Presbyterian Church of Nokomis. The building, the one now occupied, was erected in 1866.

Many pastors have since served the church faithfully. Rev. Robert Carson baptised 74 into the church at one time. A Sabbath school was organized soon after the church. Never was school work more encouraging than under the leadership of Mrs. Christina Collier, Supt. It had a membership of 160, and 22 were members of the church. The young people were later organized into a Christian Endeavor Society with Mrs. Dora Crumbaugh - pres., Miss Kate Strain - sec., Walter Collier - treas., and Miss Emma Best - organist. 500 members were received into the church, 3 becoming pastors.

However, many young people left town to accept positions in the city, and the church has suffered other reverses. Sunday school and church are still being held every Sunday, although the attendance is small. Rev. S. A. Lay is pastor, who is shared with the Witt Church. He is also Director of 9 rural churches, known as "The Parish of the Open Door". Thus the rural church is not neglected.

Mrs. Dora Crumbaugh



**First Baptist Church
and
Educational Unit**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Baptists living in Nokomis and vicinity formed the first Baptist church on May 24, 1856, when a group of three men and five women organized themselves into a "Missionary Baptist church", later to be known as the "First Baptist Church of Nokomis". As more families moved into the community, those of like faith allied themselves to the group, either by baptism or transfer from other churches.

The First Baptist church is affiliated with the American Baptist Convention.

For fourteen years the members held worship services in a schoolhouse or in sister churches. Their first house of worship was dedicated in 1870. It was erected on a lot at the corner of S. Spruce and E. Union Streets, opposite the city park. In 1907 the building was moved to its present location on South Maple Street. Extensive remodeling and enlarging have been made since then to accommodate the growing need for Sunday School class rooms. Recent improvements consist of interior decoration, new lights in the auditorium and new choir and dossal curtains.

In 1910 a parsonage was built adjoining the church, which served as the pastor's residence until 1954, when the church acquired the property at 101 West South Street, the home of the present pastor. At that time the former parsonage was completely remodeled as an educational unit, making accommodations for 13 class rooms,

with some of these convertible as assembly areas.

Active organizations of the church include its Sunday School of 20 classes; the Women's Mission Society; Baptist Youth Fellowship; Pioneer Girls; Christian Service Brigade, and several organized Sunday School classes which meet socially once a month. An adult choir and a youth choir give their services in providing special music regularly in the worship services.

The church has been served by 38 ministers, with varying length of terms as pastor. A number of these served as supply while continuing their preparation for the ministry. Six pastors have been ordained during their pastorate of the First Baptist church of Nokomis. The first ordination was that of Rev. James M. Stifler, May 22, 1869.

The Rev. B. Lawrence Sweeney, present pastor, began his ministry in this church in 1952 when he was graduated and ordained at Northern Baptist Seminary. Each year of his pastorate has seen the addition of new members, the roll at present being nearly 300 members.

The church observed its Centennial in May of this year by holding special services with outstanding leaders of the denomination from the State Convention and others participating in the program, making the occasion an outstanding milestone in the history of the church.

—Mrs. John F. Johnson, Historian



THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The First Methodist Church was organized in the year 1850 when James L. Crane organized a class of nineteen members at the home of Hugh Hightower, two miles southwest of Nokomis. Samuel Smith was appointed Class Leader, and, for a term, meetings were held at his residence. Later on they were held at the Oak Grove School house, and then at the school house in Nokomis. The Revs. J. C. Pallatte, A. J. Cushman, Preston Wood and Robert Honnold of the Hillsboro Circuit were among the first to hold services here, and the Rev. Honnold became the first pastor of the Nokomis Circuit. The first church building was erected during the pastorate of the Rev. George Miller in 1868, and it was dedicated the following year. During the time the Rev. Driver served as pastor in 1888, the Nokomis Church became a station.

The present church building at the corner of Cedar and West Union Streets was erected in 1903, when the Rev. J. A. Stout was pastor, at a cost of something more than \$7,000, and was dedicated on November 22nd of that year by the Presiding Elder, Dr. Horace Reed. The contract for construction was let to Maxeiner Brothers and Vedder, and the cornerstone was laid by Dr. Reed on July 7th. The three large art windows were donated by the Sunday School, the Epworth League, and the Ladies' Aid Society.

Several improvements and remodeling programs have followed since the structure was built. On October 12, 1947, a Hammond electric organ was dedicated, and in the year 1950 the interior of the church was redecorated. The walls were covered with sheets of plywood, and a new lighting system was installed with modern fixtures, the main lights being recessed into the ceiling. New railings were installed around the chancel and choir sections; they are light in color to blend with the wall finish, and contrast with the darker trim around the doors and windows. In the summer of 1954 an addition of Sunday School rooms was built on the basement level, and the entire basement was then refinished, and some remodeling was done. A new heating system using gas and having thermostatic controls for both the sanctuary and basement, was installed. The furnace unit occupies the former coal compartment, which releases the remaining space in the old furnace room for use in the basement Sunday School rooms. The kitchen also was modernized by the construction of new cabinets and the rearrangement of other furnishings. A new modern lighting system was installed throughout the basement consisting mainly of fluorescent type fixtures. Mr. Fred Bauman was the foreman of this project, and the cost of the entire program was over \$6,300, besides much donated labor.

The membership of the church in 1956 is nearly 450 in number, and the Sunday School enrollment is more than 260. The Church and Sunday School not only serve the town and village of Nokomis and Coalton but a large rural population as well, mainly in Audubon, Witt and Nokomis townships.

Those holding some of the principal offices in the church are John Swarbrick, Lay Leader; Russell Weger, Church School Superintendent; Fred Bauman, Chairman of Trustees; S. B. Brown, Treasurer; Mrs. Rose Warnsing, President of the W. S. C. S.; Emil Schneider, President of the Methodist Men's organization; and Rev. LeRoy E. Bula, Pastor.



GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

In 1890 a group of German Methodists banded together and held services on Sunday afternoons in the Presbyterian Church, conducted by the Rev. C. J. Stueckeman, who was at that time pastor of the South Fork Methodist Church.

He was followed by the Rev. W. C. Schultze and services were then conducted in the First Methodist Church. In 1897 he organized a Sunday School. The same year a small abandoned church building was purchased and the church was organized with 40 active members by the Rev. Theo. Kies, who served for one year.

In 1898 it was combined with the Hurricane Church and the Rev. Guido Boellner was appointed pastor of the Circuit. The Official Board at this time consisted of the following officers: Fred Pannwitz, Fred Hoepfner, Garrelt Brakenhoff, William Stolte, Ernest Kettelkamp, Wm. Kettelkamp and Wm. Herzog. Fred Kettelkamp and Henry Dude were local preachers.

In 1899 the Rev. A. F. Ludwig assumed the pastorate and remained for 5 years. Also in 1899 the women of the church organized the "sewing society" which met one afternoon each week in the homes of the members to sew or quilt. It is now known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

In 1900 a group of 25 young people organized the Epworth League with Julius Kettelkamp as president.

In 1903 improvements and additions were made to the church building and a new

parsonage was erected. In 1920 the church again underwent extensive improvements; a basement, memorial windows, new pews and a furnace were installed.

In 1920, since services were no longer conducted in the German language, the name of the church was changed from German Methodist to Grace Methodist Church.

Since 1931 one pastor has served at both Grace and First Methodist Churches. The Methodist Men and the Methodist Youth Fellowship have a combined membership from the two churches.

In 1952 the following gifts were presented, most of them as memorials to former members: a Hammond electric organ, music cabinet, pulpit and communion table, pulpit Bible, cross and candlesticks, 2 memorial windows, a large electric clock. A new altar was built, new carpet and kneeling pads were added, and the entire interior was redecorated.

Hours of services: Church School, 9:00 a.m. and Preaching Service, 9:45 a.m. The present membership of the church is 110.

Besides the pastors already mentioned the following ministers have served this church: the Reverends Fred Koenig, Otto Niederhuth, H. A. Temple, Max Opp, F. D. Rademacher, Louis Duevel, C. R. Underwood, W. G. Lloyd, J. D. Muir, C. F. Juvinall, George Billings, B. H. Pinkston, E. D. Palmer, and the present pastor, Rev. LeRoy Bula.

The present officers of the church: Trustees - Fred Layer, Albert Hoffman, Louis Priess, Theo. H. Johnson, Guido Kottwitz, Herbert Scheller, E. E. Rademacher. Church Treasurer - Elsa Brockman. Benevolence Treasurer - Esther Kleinik, Church School Supt. - Velma Hardy, Pres. Woman's Society of Christian Service - Florence Layer. Communion Steward - Ora Reincke. Chairman of Commission on Membership and Evangelism - Ben Reincke. Chairman of Commission on Education - Imogene Heck. Chairman of Commissions on Finance - Fred B. Johnson. Chairman of Commission on Missions - Esther Kleinik. Choir Director - E. E. Rademacher. Organists - Edwin Kettelkamp and Tillie Kottwitz. Church Lay Leader - Fred Layer.



ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

The history of St. Louis church, Nokomis, dates back to the year 1859 when Father Colton of Litchfield began coming to Nokomis occasionally to take care of the few Catholics then living here. This was three years after the Postoffice had been established here upon completion of the railroad. Until 1867 irregular religious services were held in private houses, most frequently at the home of Thomas Tuohy who was foreman of the section and who kept a boarding house for the section men which stood just north of the railroad and just east of Spruce St.

Beginning with 1867 Fr. Thomas Cusack attended Nokomis regularly once a month and Mass was celebrated in what was known as Blue's Hall at the corner of State and Spruce Streets. Fr. Cusack was succeeded by Fr. Edward Welch and he by Fr. Julian Turmell under whom, on July 4, 1870, the congregation was organized with the incorporated title of "St. Louis" Roman Catholic Church of Nokomis, Montgomery County, Illinois.

In 1871 a frame church was built for \$2,300.00. The size was 34 x 54 feet and 20 feet to the ceiling. There were only 25 Catholic families here at the time but they got generous help from Nokomis merchants in their project. Fr. Frederic Lohman of Hillsboro was the attending priest from 1873 to 1876 when he was succeeded by Fr. Peter J. Virnich. During his time here a necessary

addition was made to the church and 3 acres of land were bought for use as a cemetery.

In 1881 Fr. John Storp became pastor here and a small frame house was purchased and enlarged; in 1884 Fr. Storp took up residence, thus becoming the first resident pastor. Fr. Patrick A. Lyons succeeded Fr. Storp in 1893 and was succeeded by Fr. Clement Johannes in 1897. During his time here—1897 to his death on January 10, 1940—St. Louis parish had its greatest growth and progress. A new church was a necessity. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1899, and it was ready for use in the spring of 1900. It covers a ground space of 55x120 feet. The auditorium is 84 feet deep and 40 feet from floor to ceiling. The original steeple—130 feet high—was torn away by a tornado on Aug. 6, 1907, and was replaced by a more substantial one. At the same time the present Rectory was built and completed towards the end of 1908.

In 1917 St. Louis Parochial School was ready for classes, the School Sisters of Notre Dame being the teachers selected. In recognition of his great work Fr. Johannes was honored by Pope Pius XI, with the title of Monsignor in 1930. Incidentally, the day on which this honor was publicly conferred on him—March 25, 1930—saw one of the worst snowstorms in the history of Nokomis. Monsignor Johannes died on Jan. 10, 1940. Had he lived a few more months he would have reached the age of 80. Fr. Paul Heinen, who had been with Monsignor Johannes for about a year, was temporary administrator of the parish until Fr. John J. Hogan became pastor on March 14, 1940. He is still pastor in this Centennial year of Nokomis. St. Louis Parish numbers about 1000 souls. There are 179 children in St. Louis Parochial School who are still taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame from St. Louis, Mo., together with a lay teacher, Miss Rosemary Keller of Farmersville. Such is a brief history of this parish. If it be true that "the way of judging the Future is by the Past" then, surely, St. Louis Parish, Nokomis, Ill., has great things ahead of it.

John J. Hogan, Pastor



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Mark's Lutheran church in Nokomis is the outgrowth of Lutheran work in Audubon Township. This began in 1852 when a group of Lutherans came to that community from Ohio. A temporary organization was effected in 1853 and worship services were conducted by the Rev. Amos Bartholomew, who divided his time between Audubon and Bost Hill. Soon more Lutherans came from Ohio and settled near Audubon. In June, 1855 the Rev. D. D. Swaney was called to this field. A congregation was formally organized, known as Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church. A church building was erected in 1856.

Of the thirteen who signed the constitution, nine bore the name of Easterday and two had the name, Culp. In the present membership of St. Mark's there are descendants of the Easterdays and of the Culpes, also of the Rev. Swaney.

After the completion of the railroad through this part of the country a number of the members at Audubon moved to Nokomis, where other Lutherans had settled. The congregation was reorganized and a house of worship was erected in 1866, at the corner of Oak and Union. This building is still in use, facing now on Union instead of Oak as it did originally.

Through the years many improvements have been made, there being three periods of major accomplishment. A basement was excavated and equipped for Sunday School use about 1920. In this connection it is of interest to note that a part of the money for

this project was raised by the Brotherhood through sponsoring a lecture by the famous author, Lloyd C. Douglas, a son-in-law of Dr. F. M. Porch, pastor at the time.

In 1949 the front entrance was changed, definitely altering the appearance of the building.

In 1954-55 extensive interior improvements were made. This included a complete remodeling of the chancel, a Hagren organ, new lighting and interior decorating, and an oil furnace. In addition many special memorial gifts were received. The project culminated in the celebration of the church's centennial during the week of June 5 - 12, 1955.

A fourth improvement period is anticipated in the near future, as plans are forming for the expansion of the educational unit.

In addition to the ministry of its pastors, both in and out of the pulpit, the educational, devotional and evangelism programs are fostered by the auxiliaries: the Church School; Ladies' Aid; Women's Missionary Society; Brotherhood; Happy Homes, an organization for young married couples; Ladies' Evening Circle; and the Luther League, for the young people. An excellent choir contributes to the spirit of worship.

The value of recreational activities is not overlooked. Outstanding in this field is the Bald Memorial Park, where there is a cabin, and where a lake has recently been constructed.

The temporal affairs of the church are administered by a Council, consisting of nine laymen and the pastor.

Through the merger of several synods in 1918 the United Lutheran Church in America came into existence. St. Mark's continues to be affiliated with this body.

The congregation has been served by the following pastors: D. D. Swaney, S. L. Harkey, John Regan, J. E. Wesner, D. M. Henkel, J. F. Booher, D. L. Roth, W. A. Lilly, D. A. Shetler, E. A. Rees, C. R. Sherck, H. C. Funk, T. B. Hersch, J. N. Lentz, P. J. Alberthus, L. F. Gunderman, B. B. Uhl, F. M. Porch, G. W. Styer, J. J. Gent, E. J. Johnson, C. C. Warfel, A. L. Angersbach, and the present pastor, J. S. Rhine.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1870—1956

The history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church has its roots in the German settlers that started to come to Nokomis Prairie in 1865. They soon felt the need of having regular Sunday School and divine services. From 1870 to 1872 services were conducted by Doctor Swaney, a retired clergyman, the Rev. Eisenbach, Mt. Olive, and students of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

On the first Sunday in December, 1871, the first church building was dedicated. In 1872 a parsonage was erected and a call was extended to Candidate John Droegemueller. He became the first resident pastor. It was not till 1884 that the congregation affiliated with the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod (then known as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States).

As time went on it became necessary that a larger church be erected. This was done in 1889. From now on the old church building served as a school until the present Parish House was built in 1930. St. Paul's has had building programs from time to time through the years. In 1914 it was found that the parsonage erected in 1872 should be replaced by a new building. That same year an addition was built on to the church which provides room for the altar, organ, and vestry.

From the very beginning St. Paul's congregation saw the need of instructing the children. At first this chore was performed by the pastor. The stress was then laid on language and religion. Before the building of the present church (1889) the teaching was done in a room of the parsonage. From 1889 to 1929 the first church building was used as a school. St. Paul's went into conducting a regular day school for its children in 1926. For five years the school was taught by senior students or graduates from Addison Normal School or Teachers' Seminary. In 1931 one of these was given a permanent call. He then taught till 1943. Since the beginning of the present school term, September, 1955, the school has operated as a

two-room school. The present teachers: Mr. Duane Hingst, grades 4-8; Miss Dorothy Haake, grades 1-3. Previous to this 9 teachers served in the school.

The Parish House serves for more than just a school. It also serves for Sunday School and Junior Bible Class every Sunday. Here a staff of 16 officers and teachers teach God's Word to 87 children and 20 high school students.

During the evenings on week days there are meetings scheduled for five different organizations of St. Paul's congregation. These are the Walther League, a youth organization; Married Couples' Club; Ladies' Aid; Men's Club; Parents' Club. Each one of these organizations has its own pet projects to help St. Paul's Church and School. Besides these meetings the Finance Board, Board of Education, Church Council, and Adult Membership Classes use the Parish House for meetings.

During the period of 86 years of existence St. Paul's was served by a total of eight pastors. The present pastor is the Rev. Jacob Esslinger. Of these pastors and teachers that served St. Paul's some have taught or are still teaching as professors in the seminaries or teachers' colleges operated by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

On looking over the history of St. Paul's, one cannot help but notice that it had a beginning of only a few families, but grew so that it now has between 165-170 families on its mailing list. If a person could enumerate all the names of those who served their country in the various wars and those who have in other ways distinguished themselves, and show what those have done and are doing for their country here in the community, we must say that if St. Paul's had not been there, the completion of Nokomis Centennial would be of quite a different hue. Nokomis has every reason to look with pride on the contributions that St. Paul's made to the community that is now observing its 100th anniversary. St. Paul's will not lie back and rest on its laurels, but will continue to do its part to make Nokomis a city worth living in and remembering.



THE SOUTH FORK METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

In 1857 several German families settled in this community. The Rev. E. H. Kriege visited these families, preaching the Gospel to them, followed by the Rev. Louis Harmel from Decatur. The first organized meeting of these early settlers and their Christian leaders was held at the home of Henry Best, and in 1868 the South Fork congregation was officially organized. The first Quarterly Conference was held in 1868 at the home of William Kettelkamp.

By 1869 the congregation had increased to such an extent that private homes were no longer adequate for church meetings. At a meeting on May 5, 1869, the groups decided on the building of a church. Two acres were deeded to the congregation by the Krummel family and construction on the church edifice was begun. In 1871 William Kettelkamp, Sr. deeded two acres to the congregation, upon which the present Kettelkamp Cemetery was established.

Two of the first to become local preachers from the South Fork congregation were Fred Kettelkamp and August Kettelkamp, who received their license to preach in the year 1869. The first ordained minister to be appointed to the South Fork Church was the Rev. E. H. Kriege, in 1870, who served for three years. During the pastorate of Rev. F. R. Koenig, second in the line of regular appointments, a four room parsonage was built. Not until 1884 was the other half of the first parsonage added.

Yearly increase in membership necessitated a larger house of worship and the church annex was planned while Rev. C. J.

Stueckeman was minister. His sudden illness delayed the building, and it was not until March, 1893, during the ministry of Rev. C. W. Schultze, that the contract was let. This building was completed in November, 1893. The church bell, still in use, was presented to the church in this year by Mr. Eugene Vandever.

South Fork celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary in 1918 during the ministry of Rev. A. H. F. Hertzler. Also during this year the present parsonage was built. Until 1925 the South Fork Methodist Church was a member of the St. Louis German Conference. At this time, however, the South Fork Church merged with the Illinois English Conference. Up until this merger, the church services were conducted in the German language, but after the merger the services were all conducted in English.

Improvements in church property have constantly been made. In the earlier years the outmoded coal oil lamps were replaced by acetylene lights, which in turn gave place, in 1918, to a Lalley Electric Lighting System. In 1941 the present R. E. A. system was installed. Also, in 1940, the present modern two-car garage was constructed. About this time, too, the present basement was dug under the church, which has since served for Sunday School classes and other group meetings and banquets.

Among the major church improvements of the last decade are the following: complete redecoration of the church interior; installation of beautiful stained glass windows; an electric organ; a church altar and communion rail; and the erection of a large neon-lighted cross, replacing the old church steeple.

From the time of the first missionary preacher to the South Fork congregation in 1867, twenty six ministers have comprised the preaching staff of South Fork. The twenty-sixth is the present pastor, Rev. Jack K. Christian, who is now beginning his fifth year of service to the congregation. Throughout the years eleven young men from South Fork have dedicated themselves to ministry, and five young women have become ministers' wives.

The present membership is 185 persons.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

For sixty-three of Nokomis' one hundred years, Trinity Lutheran Church has been part of our community. Since October 8, 1893, the familiar white building has stood on Pine and Franklin Streets, and the people who worshipped there have been taking an active interest in Nokomis. Then, but four years ago, in 1952, the old building was replaced by a new, dedicated to the glory of God and the welfare of our neighbors. Between these two dedications, the newest and one of the oldest buildings in town, much history has been written. Many lives were blessed. Many sacrifices were made. It is a history in which not only Trinity's members may rejoice, but one which our whole community may pause to note.

It is a history of growth. In 1893, there were but nine men in the congregation. These were the men whose courage and conviction were responsible for its organization. Their names are familiar ones in the history of this community: Henry Buechsenschuetz, Leonard Buechsenschuetz, Albert Eckhoff, Henry Haake, Henry Hinrichs, Luebbe Jansen, Carl Kellerman, John Woltmann. Today their faith has been rewarded. Trinity Lutheran Church now numbers 420 members in 163 families. 96 children attend its Sunday School. The great majority of its members

are active in the church and regular in their attendance.

It is a history of achievement. Every period in its history shows some project completed. (In 1907 the old church was improved and enlarged. In 1919 the parsonage was enlarged. In 1922 a basement was put under the old building. In 1930 a pipe organ was purchased and the present Sunday School organized. In 1936 a house was purchased for Sunday School classes. In 1946 work was begun on the climax of its history, the present building.) But its greatest achievement is one which is not always noted in the records. The blessed message that Christ is Lord and Savior has gone out from three generations of people. The history of Trinity has best been written in the faith and hope of these men and women, who have given far more than a church to Nokomis, they have given Christ.

It is a history of fellowship. During its 63 years, Trinity has been served by nine resident pastors. They are Pastor Paul Kolb, 1895-96; Pastor Wm. Kowert, 1902-04; Pastor Ph. Estel, 1904-05; Pastor O. H. Henkel, 1906-11 and 1916-29; Pastor E. H. Gade, 1911-16; Pastor A. E. Richert, 1930-37; Pastor Alvin Mueller, 1938-43; Pastor E. H. Beke-meyer, 1944-53; and Pastor R. J. Martens, the present pastor. These are men who have come, left their mark, and gone again into others fields of service. Yet in these years, under many leaders, facing many problems together, Trinity has enjoyed peace. They have truly, in the words of the Apostle, "with one mouth and one mind glorified God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

On the evening of March 24, 1922, a meeting was called to organize an Auxiliary to Waples Bauer Post No. 94. A charter was granted with 24 members. Membership in the Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters of all men who were in military service of the United States. Also the women in their own right are eligible. The first president was Mrs. Dora Crumbaugh.

Each Auxiliary Unit is organized and directed by the State Department of Illinois. Above the State Department is the National Department. Each year delegates are sent to the County and District meetings and the State Convention. The Auxiliary has charge of the Junior Auxiliary.

Each year the Auxiliary sends a girl to Illinois Girl State. On Memorial Day a basket or wreath is placed on the cannon in the cemetery in memory of all our dead. Perpetual markers are placed on the graves of each of our members.

Donations are given to the Child Welfare, Treasure Chest, Insulin, Vaponefrin, Canteen Books, Christmas Gifts Shop, Easter Gifts, Easter Seals, Veteran Craft, Yank-Who-Gave, Auxiliary Loan Fund, National Security, T. B. Bonds, Christmas baskets, Jacksonville and Alton State Hospitals, Red Cross, Polio Fund, Heart Association, Crippled Children, Nokomis Memorial Park House, and books have been given to the library in honor of deceased members.

The Auxiliary serves the Senior Vice Commanders' Banquet each year, which is usually held in January.

Poppies are sold on Poppy Day and prizes are given to the children for the best poppy posters. Flowers and cards are sent to Gold Star mothers and baskets of fruit, candy, and cigarettes are sent to veterans who are ill. There is an active Past Presidents Club.

Regular meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. At present the membership is 139 and the president is Mrs. Lucille Schaefer.

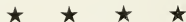
PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

The Past Presidents Parley of the American Legion Auxiliary was organized Oct. 7, 1937, and has been an active organization since that time.

Meetings are held once a month at the homes of the members, with a business meeting followed by a social hour.

The Parley was organized solely for the purpose of giving financial and moral assistance to our hospitalized nurses in the hospital at Norbury's in Jacksonville.

Our Parley has an active group of twenty-eight members.



Clippings From 1889 Free Press

Nokomis celebrated 100th anniversary of Washington's inauguration as President.

"Wells Tooley - a heart smasher, crusher, fell swooper and destroyer. As he looms up in imposing dignity among the knots of feminine beauty that sparkle and scintillate around him and drops his witcisms and repartess as they are proper responses to the occasion, generous rivalry sways the group and sallies de esprit contend for his attention."

Closing school program: Recitations by Sammie Hiett, "The Boy"; Walter McCaslin, "The Hottentot"; Charlie Pullen, "The Greedy Mouse"; Eddie Hubbard, "The Young Speaker"; Inez Gelly, "The Doll's Mission"; George Russel, "A Boy's Troubles"; Edgar and Elmer Shoemaker, "Our First Attempt"; Edna Green "Don't"; Edith Gelly "The Millionaire and Barefoot"; Roy Webster, "The Jolly Old Cow"; Anna Bess, "The Little Light"; Arnold Eekhoff, "The Boy's Complaint"; Claudie Middleton, "A Careless Word"; Nannie Pullen, "Little Jim"; Martha Handschy, "Little Goldenhair"; Dunn Weaver, "Vacation"; Lillie Rosche, "The Newsboy's Debt"; Charlie Littlefield, "Willie Briggs"; Dora Law, "A Little Girl's View of Life in a Hotel." March 9, 1889.

Emma Scales attended Teachers' National Association in Nashville, Tenn.

"New Babcock brand fire engines ready for use. Now for a hook and ladder company."

"Croquet is the popular game."

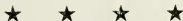


V. F. W.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized and received their charter Feb. 9, 1947. There were 50 charter members. First meeting hall was above the Candy Factory; second was in the Charles Kerr building. They are buying their present building next to Sides Grocery. All veterans having overseas duty during time of war are eligible to be members.

They support all civic programs and have donated three hospital beds to the community.

Dale Johnson is the present commander and Forrest Rhoades is the adjutant.



NOKOMIS NAVY MOTHER'S CLUB NO. 557

The first Navy Mother's Club was organized June 26, 1930, at McAllen, Texas.

Later, National and State organizations were formed. There are now 790 clubs in the United States.

The Nokomis Navy Mothers organized March 3, 1944, with 25 charter members.

The purposes for which this organization was formed are to promote a program of education, welfare, and social interests between the parents of Navy men and women; to encourage contentment, efficiency, patriotism and pride among the men and women serving in the United States Navy.

The spirit of the organization is to act as a proxy to other mothers' sons and daughters while those mothers are taking care of our sons and daughters.

There are still 24 sons and two daughters of Navy men in active service.

We have helped with many civic projects and drives in our local community, giving of our time and money.

Proceeds from our tag sale is donated for welfare among hospitalized veterans.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NOKOMIS COUNCIL NO. 2189

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's organization. The local council No. 2189 was granted a charter from the Supreme office at New Haven, Conn., on Sept. 19, 1920. There were 96 charter members. Present membership of the council is 140 members. The first Grand Knight was Fred Ernst. The present Grand Knight is Wm. J. Boehler. The first Chaplain was Rev. C. Johannes and the present Chaplain is Father John J. Hogan. The local council meets on the first Monday night of each month at the St. Louis School.



HOME BUREAU

The five units of Home Bureau in the local area are among the 15 which made up the Montgomery County Home Bureau at the time of its organization. Preliminary steps toward county organization were taken when Mrs. Alden Snyder brought to Hillsboro Mrs. Kathryn Van Aken Burns, head of the Home Economics Extension service, to meet with a few women from each township. A permanent organization, with Mrs. W. R. Goby of Raymond as president, was effected on August 14, 1936. Two Nokomis women, Mrs. Louis Colonius and Mrs. R. J. Wattjes, Sr., were helpful in securing members. The first home advisor was Mrs. Mabel Albrecht.

The present chairmen of local area units are Mrs. Roy Pocock, College Hill; Mrs. C. W. Cox, Irving; Mrs. Adam Betzold, Nokomis-Audubon; Mrs. Walter Redeker, Rountree; Mrs. Harlan Durston, Witt. Lois Elliott is home advisor, Margaret Dickerson, assistant.

The units hold monthly meetings in the Park House or homes of members. They sponsor 4-H Clubs. Their aim is to create the best informed and equipped homemakers in their communities.

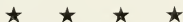


MASONIC LODGE NO. 456 A. F. & A. M.

In June of 1865 application was made by eleven Nokomis men for authority to establish a lodge of A. F. & A. M. in Nokomis. Temporary officers were elected and a hall rented for a meeting place. This hall was above the W. F. Mulkey store, at the corner of State and Spruce, the site of the present place of meeting.

A charter for Nokomis Lodge No. 456 was received on Oct. 4, 1865, and the following permanent officers were elected: Martin Miller, Worshipful Master; W. F. Mulkey, Senior Warden; James Welch, Junior Warden; John H. Matkins, Senior Deacon; John W. Hancock, Junior Deacon; M. V. Easterday, Secretary; S. L. Latimer, Treasurer; S. P. Mulkey, Tyler.

The lodge has now reached a membership of 259. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. The present officers are as follows: Bliss Parker, Jr., Worshipful Master; Raymond Miles, Senior Warden; J. R. Worthington, Junior Warden; Max Moody, Treasurer; H. A. Arnold, Secretary; Orville Morell, Senior Deacon; Al Compton, Junior Deacon; Cecil Polley, Senior Steward; Harold Battles, Junior Steward; Kenneth Wiseman, Marshal; Ed Sperry, Chaplain; Roe Darst, Tyler.



W. C. T. U.

The W. C. T. U. is the lineal descendant of the Great Woman's Crusade which began December 23, 1873, in Hillsboro, Ohio. It is made up of men and women, striving, through an educational program, to make their communities better places in which to live. In 1879 Illinois became the 5th state organized. That same year Nokomis organized a W. C. T. U. Today 72 counties have W. C. T. U. organizations. The principles, as written by Frances E. Willard and adopted in 1874, are those to which members still pledge themselves.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Nokomis Chapter No. 138 Order of the Eastern Star was organized on April 19, 1889, for the purpose of promulgating Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Mrs. Sarah Manning was elected Worthy Matron and James Scott, Worthy Patron. A charter membership of fourteen has grown to 170 at present.

This jurisdiction maintains two homes: one at Rockford, Illinois, and one at Macon, Illinois.

In 1939 Nokomis Chapter observed its 50th anniversary with an official visit of the Worthy Grand Matron.

Mrs. Jean Hulbert and William Hulbert are the present Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.



BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

The Nokomis Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in 1928, with a membership of 38. The first permanent officers were Stella Yackle, president; Genevieve Bender, vice-president; Ione Wild, secretary; Imogene Bess, treasurer.

Seven of those holding membership today were charter members. There have been several honorary members. Two oldest, now deceased, were Mrs. Antje Eekhoff and Mrs. Mary Pier.

Projects of the club show a special interest in the girls of the community. They have sponsored Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts and 4-H Club. They have helped needy high school girls, furnishing clothes, medical aid, and glasses. At present they are sponsoring the Brownies.

Community service includes furnishing city street signs, contributing to the establishment of the Park House, and entering floats in the Homecoming parade.

Each year they entertain the high school senior girls and give a mother-daughter banquet. Formerly they gave a bosses' banquet annually.

The present officers are Amber Hill, president; Gwendolyn Hieronymus, vice-president; Velma Hardy, secretary; Mary Lakin, treasurer.



NOKOMIS ROTARY CLUB

How very appropriate for the Nokomis Club to be celebrating its thirtieth anniversary, and Rotary itself 51 years, along with the Nokomis Centennial.

An organization meeting of the Nokomis Rotary Club was held in the basement of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, January 26, 1926, with the following officers: H. A. Arnold, pres., L. K. Vandever, vice-pres., O. J. Stiehl, secy., Wm. Bald, treas., Phillip Koucheveris, sgt. at arms, A. T. Woltmann, song leader, and A. J. Schroeder, pianist. The charter was presented to the local club May 4, 1926.

From the time of its organization, to the present, the club has taken an active interest in community affairs; lack of space makes it impossible to enumerate the many things Nokomis Rotarians have accomplished in the past 30 years.

The first regular Rotary Ann meeting was held Oct. 28, 1926. Since that date two to four such meetings have been held each year. Probably the outstanding programs have been the Mothers' Day gatherings. The first inter-city meeting was held with the Hillsboro Rotary Club Sept. 23, 1926.

The charter members were H. A. Arnold, A. T. Woltmann, A. E. Vandever, L. K. Vandever, Phil Koucheveris, A. J. Schroeder, Wm. Bald, Milo Johnson, O. J. Stiehl, Dr. J. M. Hoyt, J. J. Fries, A. O. Kettelkamp, Dr. F. M. Porch, Fr. C. Johannes, E. M. Jenkins, Charles Tomlinson, Boyd Pond, E. F. Pannwitt, H. I. Mayes, and H. O. Pinkerton. Of these, E. F. Pannwitt, A. J. Schroeder, and O. J. Stiehl are still members of the club.

The local Rotary Club has 42 active members, with various classifications for each member; all have nick-names. The present officers are Donald McDermith, pres., Charles Hinkle, past pres., William Hulbert, vice-pres., Fred Heck, secy.-treas., Lloyd Davis*, sgt.-at-arms, F. B. Johnson, historian, Mervin Johnson, song leader, L. W. Woltmann, ass't., A. J. Schroeder pianist, and Irvin Singler, ass't. The board of directors are Donald McDermith, George Priddle, J.

E. Anderson, W. Hulbert, H. C. Kettelkamp and Edward Ovca.

The application of the "Ideal of Service" by every Kotarian to his personal, business and community life, makes a fitting tribute to "The Century of Progress" of the Nokomis trading area. May "Service Above Self" be the ultimate goal. (*Deceased)

★ ★ ★ ★ GREETINGS FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

Louis W. Woltmann

Supervisor

Genevieve S. Holmes

Town Clerk

Jesse W. Eckhoff

Highway Commissioner

Homer Schaefer

Assessor

Town Board

George Fullerton

Edward Pilgrim

Milton Kettelkamp

Henry Stanley

We are here to serve you.

★ ★ ★ ★ BETA SIGMA PHI

The Illinois Zeta Gamma Chapter No. 2608 of Beta Sigma Phi, an International Sorority, was organized by Mrs. C. H. Troutner, January 8, 1947, with eight members, a social sponsor, and an educational director.

Beta Sigma Phi is a social, cultural, and philanthropic organization. The members believe that "their chief right to live as an organization is the right to be useful." So, by giving generously of their abilities, their time and their energy, they strive to promote the welfare of their associates, the community, and the nation through organized humanitarian projects. They are especially interested in cancer research and in the program of Polio prevention and care. Locally, the chapter have supported every worthwhile activity in the community.

The present membership numbers twenty-three. Mrs. Earl Jenkins has served as Social Sponsor of the sorority since its organization.

Educational Directors in the past have been Mrs. E. D. Palmer, Mrs. C. R. Gleich, Mrs. Russell Sellett. Mrs. Floyd Barnstable is now serving in that capacity.



NOKOMIS LIONS CLUB

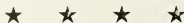
The Nokomis Lions Club was organized by twelve men on March 19, 1952. The Nokomis club was sponsored by the Hillsboro Lions. Charter Night was held at the South Grade School gym on May 22, 1952, with forty members present. The first officers were Glenn Johnson, pres.; Lee Dawson, sec'y.; the Rev. John S. Rhine, treas.

In the few years the local club has been organized the members have been very active in this community. A few of the various projects are as follows: Aided in the purchase of a wheel chair for Connie Kroenlein who was stricken with polio. Sponsor Boy Scout troop No. 99 jointly with St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Sponsor a boy each year to Boys' State. Sponsor the Lions Pony League team. Aided in the organization of Little League Ball and now provide umpires for the Little League games. Sponsored the "March of Dimes" in Nokomis in 1953, 1954, 1955. Conducted several drives for used clothing which was turned over to the supervisors of Nokomis and Audubon Townships. Sold Brooms made by the Blind. Helped support the Hadley School for the Blind located in Chicago, and Leader Dog School, Rochester, Mich. Built sewer and rest rooms at Memorial Park and will complete a wading pool at the Park in April of this year, at a cost of approximately \$8,000.00.

Present Membership

Dean Anderson, Frank Berns, Howard Bell, Monroe Berns, James Brackenhoff, Gene Brown, George Buchko, Norman Bean, H. C. Bricker, Ronald Calvetti, Robert Cotanch, Louis Cesaretti, Mike Charnisky, Jeno Collebrusco, Maurice Crow, Lee Dawson, David Easterday, Walter Fricke, Paul Fabulo, Fernand Guyot, Darwin Gibson, Clarence Hard, Richard Holloway, Rudy Hribar, Jack Hall, Wm. Kennedy, George Hinton, Paul Layer, Charles Lehnen, Nels Melin, Robert Martens, Victor Michlautz, Paul Obregar, John S. Rhine, William Saatkamp, Jack Sale,

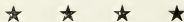
Rodell Satterfield, Ralph Scheller, Ike Smith, Elio Tosetti, James Tosetti, Primo Tosetti, James Vancil, Edmund Vandever, Clyde Vancil, Geno Vighi, Henry Wexstten, Jr., Guy Wharton.



REBEKAH LODGE

On the night of Feb. 16, 1910, a group of people met at the I. O. O. F. Hall and formed the Nokomis Rebekah Lodge No. 226. A heavy snow was falling and forced all to remain in the building till morning. The purpose of the lodge is to promote a fraternal spirit among its members, educate the orphans, and care for the aged.

The lodge has been honored by having four District Presidents in its membership. Like other orders, the Rebekah Lodge has had its ups and downs but is still going.



NOKOMIS WOMAN'S CLUB

On November 4, 1911, the Nokomis Household Science Club was organized, whose purpose was to work in harmony with the Montgomery County Farmers' Institute.

However, on December 14, 1915, the Household Science Club disbanded and re-organized as the "Nokomis Woman's Club." Music, art, literature, and household science were the subjects chosen for study. In January, 1916, the first officers of the Nokomis Woman's Club were elected. The officers installed were president, Mrs. Charlotte Eekhoff; first vice-president, Mrs. Anna Taylor; second vice-president, Miss Ione Wild; recording secretary, Mrs. Kate Bald; corresponding secretary, Miss Ruth Casselberry; treasurer, Miss Virginia Griffin.

During the first year, the membership consisted of fifty-seven members, but that number decreased during the depression.

They struggled valiantly to maintain a library, with Miss Hettie Wells as one of the first librarians.

Nokomis Woman's Club is federated with the County, District, State, and the General Federation.

The aim of every Woman's Club is to build better communities with more understanding and more religion.



CITY COUNCIL

The City Council is the governing body of Nokomis. The aldermanic form of government was in effect until 1929, when the commission form was adopted. Through the many decisions of the council, some too small to attract public attention, some so great as to cause controversy, Nokomis has forged ahead in beauty, in security, and in well-being.

Only a few of the outstanding acts of past councils can be mentioned here. One of the first which was to begin the change of Nokomis from a small country village to a beautiful little city was to put in pavement and concrete sidewalks in 1911. The installation of ornamental lighting on State Street in 1923 added to this "new look."

The councils have kept pace with the needs of all departments by the purchase of needed equipment, such as trucks for the street department and the water department, and a police car. Antiquated hand drawn fire trucks were replaced by the motorized type in 1922. These, in turn, were replaced by the present trucks in 1947.

Two outstanding accomplishments for the health and comfort of the community were the installation of a water softener, about 1923, and the construction of an up-to-date, efficient disposal plant in 1954, replacing an outmoded plant.

Nokomis City Council

Clarence Hard

T. H. Harrison, City Clerk

Homer Stanley, Mayor

Alvin Hagemeier

Primo Tosetti

Gerald Cain

**Meets First And Third
Monday of Each Month**

Recreational facilities have not been overlooked, as is attested by the purchase of playground equipment and park upkeep.

The last city election was held in April, 1955. Kenneth Kellerman, who was elected mayor, died a few months later. The office was filled by Homer Stanley, a council member. This council is resurfacing East Union Street and South Elm from Union to Route 16. North Spruce, from Route 16 to the Raymond road, is being black topped, and curbing and gutters are being installed. Some new sewers have been put in and a great number of water connections have been made resulting in more revenue for the city. Another source of revenue is the parking meters installed by the council in 1948. The office in the city hall has been improved and the city clerk moved into it. Several bonds, with interest, have been paid off, and a substantial reserve in the Federal Reserve Bank of East St. Louis has been built up for future payment of bonds.

It is the avowed policy of this council to do only the urgently needed things, so that the indebtedness may be paid off as fast as possible. Definite plans for the future, as soon as money is available, include: acquisition of more fire equipment and a building for its shelter; more sewer connections; the widening of West Union Street.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

WAPLES - BAUER POST NO. 94

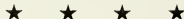
FOR GOD and COUNTRY we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: to uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

In August, 1919, a Post of the American Legion was organized in Nokomis by Col. George Seaman of the Department of Illinois. The name selected was WAPLES - BAUER POST NO. 94 A. L., being named after two veterans who were first to make the supreme sacrifice during World War I. This was the first Post organized in Montgomery County and is at present the largest post in the county. Also the Montgomery County Council had its beginning with the Nokomis Post. In 1933 the Post purchased the present Legion Hall which was financed by the members and friends, and in 1941 the final note was burned. A banquet and ceremony were held in appreciation of the many favors making the purchase possible. This also was the beginning of the annual State Vice Commanders' banquet held each year since. Some of the vital programs carried on through the years are the sponsorship of Junior Baseball, School awards, Boys' State, Community service, and primarily service work on behalf of the disabled and needy veterans. The Post has furnished a large number of legionnaires as leaders in the State, District and

County organizations. Each year the Post has carried on the tradition of the G. A. R., honoring the veterans of all wars in commemoration of Memorial Day with fitting ceremonies. After the beginning of W. W. II the charter of the Legion was amended to accept into membership these veterans. Later Korean Veterans were admitted. The Legion was directly responsible for the new legislation known as the G. I. Bill of Rights, furthering the welfare of these veterans. The majority of the Post Commanders since 1946 have been selected from this group.

Past Commanders

1919 John Willis, 1920 John Oltmann, 1921 David Baird*, 1922 Carl Olmstead*, 1923 Louis Nantkes, 1924 O. J. Stiehl, 1925 John Cook, 1926 Elmer Wilson, 1927 Emil Wells, 1928 Charles Newport, 1929 Harry Weaver*, 1930 J. E. Anderson, 1931 Nels Melin, 1932 Emory Weakley, 1933 Gus Bowlers, 1934 Chester Pocock, 1935 Rene DeLarche*, 1936 James Thornhill, 1937 Albert Smith, 1938 Pearl Crow*, 1939 Earl Jenkins, 1940 Charles Pick, 1941 A. R. Evans*, 1942 Fernand Guyot, 1943 L. W. Woltmann, 1944 Fred Layer, 1945 George Carr*, 1946 Frank Obregar, 1947 George Fullerton, 1948 Mervin Johnson, 1949 Wilbert Brueckner, 1950 Kenneth Kellerman*, 1951 Mario Costa, 1952 Frank Berns, 1953 Marion Loop, 1954 Delbert Lehnen, 1955 James Guyot, 1956 Guy Wharton. (*) Deceased.



1889

"Coal mine under discussion Feb., 1889."

"John Paddock attended inauguration of President Harrison - March, 1889."

"Proposal for a mill. Solicit subscribers for stock - McGrew Hartsock. Opened July, 1889."

"The May Bretonne Company gave a very satisfactory - refined, chaste, entertaining & highly pleasing - entertainment at Weaver's Opera House."

"Nokomis Creamery - 30,000 pounds butter fat in July."

"Contract signed to macadamize a portion of State St., \$1,500 per block."

"W. M. Todd, young attorney, locates in Nokomis."



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANTI-THIEF
ASSOCIATION AND GOPHER HILL
SUB-ORDER NO. 296**

**The Anti-Thief Association — What It Is
What It Is Not.**

The Anti-Thief Association is an organization composed of law abiding citizens who have banded themselves together for the mutual protection of its members against thieves and other criminals and to cooperate with the civil authorities in apprehending and bringing to justice all such offenders; to educate our citizenship in the love of the Flag, in patriotism, and in charity to the needy and to all the Order.

The A. T. A. is a fraternal order and is both a detective and a protective order. Its members assist each other in time of sickness and distress.

The A. T. A. is a patriotic organization; its objective is to uphold the law of the land. It teaches patriotism and greater respect for the law to its own members.

The A. T. A. is a protective organization; thieves fear and shun it.

The A. T. A. is a secret order, but secret only so far as necessary to carry on its work.

The A. T. A. is an officers' Aid Society. It works in close harmony and cooperation with the sheriff and police officers to uphold the law, order, and justice.

The A. T. A. is chartered under the laws of the state in which it operates.

The Anti-Thief Association is not a lawless vigilance committee, but is opposed to mob violence in any form and will expel any member that takes part in a mob. None but law abiding citizens is permitted to join the order.

The A. T. A. is not a political organization - members of all parties belong.

The A. T. A. is not connected in any way with any religious denomination, sect, or creed.

The A. T. A. does not violate one law to uphold another.

The Anti-Horse Thief Association was first organized in 1854 by Major David McKee. With horse thieves and all sorts of criminals having free reign throughout the country, Major McKee and a few of his close friends met at the Highland School house in Clark County, Mo., to see what might be done to restore some law and order. It was in this meeting that the Anti-Horse Thief Association was born.

In September of 1863, Major McKee, who had been honorably discharged from Civil War service with the Union Forces because of physical disabilities, called a meeting at Luray, Mo., of all the former A.H.T.A. members that could be reached. A temporary organization was set up and the meeting adjourned to meet again at Millport, Mo. The Millport meeting began October 23, 1863, with eleven members present at the first session. The first constitution and by-laws were adopted and officers elected.

The first sub-order Charter was issued at a subsequent meeting held March 21, 1864, with representatives of eight sub-orders present.

In 1881, State Orders were formed under the jurisdiction of a National Order.

The following sub-orders, with the exception of Gopher Hill, Sub-Order No. 296, are members of the Montgomery County A. T. A. which was organized Jan. 19, 1937:

South Audubon Sub-Order No. 285

Organized April 1, 1920

North Nokomis Sub-Order No. 300

Organized Oct. 3, 1921

Rountree Sub-Order No. 327

Organized Feb. 26, 1923

Phillips Chapel Sub-Order No. 343

Organized 1924

Little Hickory Sub-Order No. 378

Organized Oct. 20, 1926

Wares Grove Sub-Order No. 438

Organized April 3, 1939

Fillmore Sub-Order No. 418

Organized Feb. 2, 1947

Irving Sub-Order No. 274

Organized Mar. 4, 1947

New Prospect Sub-Order No. 440

Organized Mar. 26, 1947

Gopher Sub-Order No. 296

Organized Sept. 12, 1921



Nokomis
Public
Library

NOKOMIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Many good libraries have had very humble beginnings in the home of some active club members whose fellow club members joined forces to buy and circulate books among their own group.

Such a group was Nokomis Woman's Club who gathered their privately owned book collection in the home of a member who lived near the shopping area of the town. Gradually the collection outgrew space available in a private home and was moved to rented quarters on the town's main street. It was attended by a club member and supported and augmented by the sale of handmade articles and contributions from members of the Woman's Club.

In the mid-thirties, the collection became part of an authorized WPA Library. During this period, many valuable books were added. More readers were served and more hours made available for browsing and borrowing books.

About 1941 the Library was again sponsored by the Woman's Club and received some aid from the Township and the Nokomis Coal Mine. It was open 12 hours a week and the gigantic task of sorting, classifying and cataloging was begun.

In 1950 the Library became township supported by vote and its administration turned over to the Supervisor and a Library Board of 6 women and a trained librarian

who served as secretary of the Board. This set up exists today. The Board acts in an advisory capacity and is responsible for general policies and disbursement of funds. The Library, located one half block from the main street, is now open 28 hours a week.

The present Library includes a large, attractive reading room, a non-fiction study room and a small room for storage, magazine files, office supplies and equipment. Monthly Board meetings are held in this room.

In 1954-55 over 21,000 books were circulated to some 900 readers. Three schools were serviced and many special orders received monthly from the State Library. The Library owns about 6,000 volumes of fiction and non-fiction and subscribes to 35 magazines. About 675 new books were added last year.

Many adult clubs in the area have held meetings in the Library for instruction on its use. Such topics as reference, card catalog, Dewey Decimal System, fiction, non-fiction, biography, vertical file, periodicals and audio-visual aids were discussed.

Weekly Hobby Shows, a Gallery of Local Artists and occasional Story Hours are special features of the Library.

Knowledge, accompanied by human interest and sympathy will lead to a Public waiting at the Library doors-and the Library with assurance, will meet the challenge to become "The People's University."



FAMILIES OF NOKOMIS

Many names appearing in this section of the Centennial History are no longer listed in the current directory of Nokomis.

Many other families are not included. This is regrettable.

From covered wagon days to this very week, families have come and gone or come and stayed. Always their influence has remained. Their lives have colored the fabric through a hundred years.

ARCHIBALD FAMILY

William Archibald, Sr. was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, on Dec. 9, 1824. He was married to Miss Margaret Gilmour of Renfrewshire. In 1868 they came to the U. S., settling in Macoupin Co. In 1881 they moved to the Nokomis community. Their family numbered eleven, all of whom lived to adulthood except Agnes, who died at the age of eight.

In 1899 an epidemic struck the locality in which they lived. When it had passed, the parents and three sons, Hugh, Will and Robert had been taken. With true courage those who were left accepted the changes in their lives and carried on.

Hugh who had married Miss Margaret Morris was combining farming and school teaching. Mrs. Archibald remained at the farm and cared for their three small sons. Will, a teacher in H. S. had been living at home and Robert was farming with his father. Two others were in homes of their own. George at his farm near Rosamond and Elizabeth, Mrs. Drake, lived in Audubon.

The younger ones, left at the farm, stayed on for five years, then separated. Janet was married to Mr. Paul Calame, Mary resumed teaching, John purchased the North Side Livery which he operated during the pre-automobile days, James took up the study of medicine, graduating from the St. Louis University. He was located in Nokomis for several years as a practicing physician. Then after more study became a specialist in the X-ray and its uses. He was connected with the St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Danville, Ill., at the time of his death in 1940. Charles R. graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1911, and was employed in St. Louis when called to service in World War I. When discharged he returned to Nokomis. He passed away in 1942.

Of the family of eleven only two are living: Mary K., who resides in Nokomis, and John, who was married to Miss Edna Gordon in 1932. Their farm home is near Bernie, Mo. Mrs. Archibald's former home was on Prince Edward Island, Canada. There are eight grandchildren.

Three sons of Hugh and Margaret Morris Archibald are Darrell, who is a M.

E. minister in an Indiana Conference, married Miss Anna Lee. He studied at Barberville College in Kentucky, received his Masters Degree from Northwestern, then finished at Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston. They have one son, James Hugh, a student at La Porte, Ind. H. S.

David Maurice, second son, was married to Miss Estella Stanley. They live on the farm where he was born. He has never called any other place, "Home". They take an active interest in all organizations for the good of the farming community and civic welfare. They have one son, David Stanley, who recently completed four years in the U. S. Navy.

A third son, Hugh, Jr., was married to Miss Cecil Dean. He had prepared himself for the ministry studying at the Ozark Wesleyan College, and finishing at the Garrett Institute in Evanston. He passed away in 1935. Mrs. Archibald resumed teaching and cared for their two daughters. Margaret was graduated from Blackburn College, Carlinville and is now a laboratory technician at the Burge Hospital in Springfield, Mo. Ruth studied at Greenville, Ill. College. She is now Mrs. Melvin Boston of Springfield, Ill. They have a little son, David Hugh.

The sons of Irwin and Elizabeth Archibald Drake are Frank A., who has lived in Decatur for years, was married to Miss Mary Newcomb. They have four children. A son, Harlan, served with the army in World War II.

Hugh A., who was married to Miss Sadie Morgan, a teacher in the rural schools, lived in Nokomis for a few years. They have recently purchased a new home in Bloomington where he is employed. Their one son, James, served in the U. S. Navy during World War II. He is now employed at Bloomington and lives at home.

Daughters of Paul and Janet Archibald Calame: Mary Grace, who attended Brown's Business College in Bloomington, was employed in the office at a large stock farm near Delavan. Later she married the son of her employer and lives at this farm which has belonged to several generations of Browns. They have one son, Paul Lewis, recently married, who will receive the Agri-

cultural Science Degree at the close of this year's work (1956) at the U. of I.

Iona Margaret, who graduated from Evanston Hospital School of Nursing in 1934 and received the B. S. Degree from Northwestern University in 1935, married Mr. P. J. Tyler. She holds the position of Supervising Nurse of the Bell Telephone Co. They live in Chicago where Mr. Tyler has business interests.

Marjorie Jeannette, who became a teacher, was married to Mr. Roger E. Stevens, whom she met at the Blackburn College, Carlinville. They live on a farm near Jerseyville that has belonged to the family for years. They have five daughters: Joanne, who is in nurses' training at the Deaconess Hospital in St. Louis, Mary Jane, Cara Gay, Janice and Jeanne. There are fifteen great grand-children.



Carl, Mrs. Bevell, Floyd, Mr. Bevell

BEVILL FAMILY

Mr. Charles Bevell, who was born in Witt Twp., was married to Miss Lillie Vericker on August 8, 1923. In 1943 they moved to Chicago.

They have two sons: Floyd Earl and Carl Eugene, both married; Floyd to Miss Jane Thompson and Carl to Miss Nelda Griggs.

Floyd was graduated from Nokomis H. S. in 1942. Later he attended E. I. T. C. at Charleston, Ill. He was with the Naval Air Corps from 1943 to 1945, and attended U. of Tenn., at Knoxville, Tenn., from which

he was graduated, August, 1949. They have one son, born Feb., 1943, William Earl Bevell.

Carl was graduated from Nokomis H. S. then attended the E. I. T. C. at Charleston, Ill., from 1950 to 1951. He joined the U. S. Navy in 1952, discharged February, 1956. There are two children: Thomas Allan and Susan Elaine.

★ ★ ★ ★ BOURQUIN FAMILY

Abram Bourquin, one of the first breeders of Brown Swiss Cattle in Montgomery County, was born in Ohio in 1854. He came to Nokomis in 1879, purchasing the farm on part of which Coalton has since been built.

The family moved into Nokomis in 1899 and, soon after, Mr. Bourquin purchased the Belknap property which he platted for Bourquin's Addition.

The Bourquins moved to Spokane, Washington, in 1905. Mr. Bourquin met with an accidental death in 1914 and Mrs. Bourquin passed away in 1949. Their daughters still live in Spokane—Jessie now being Mrs. E. M. Glassburn, and Naomi, a teacher in the public schools.

★ ★ ★ ★ BROWN FAMILY

Mr. S. B. Brown came to Nokomis in 1893 and afterward became associated with Mr. Chase Wells in a men's clothing business. The firm was known as Wells and Brown. This firm's business was discontinued after many years and Mr. Brown became an employee of the Nokomis National Bank.

He was married to Miss Luella Snell who passed away in 1946. To this union were born two sons: Paul Maurice and Judd Snell. Both grew to manhood, finished the course of study in Nokomis schools and later their courses at the U. of I. Both are now deceased. Mr. Brown was elected mayor of Nokomis and filled that position very satisfactorily for two terms.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were active members of the M. E. Church of which he was a trustee. He was also a member of the School Board for a number of years. Since his retirement, Mr. Brown has lived in Nokomis but spends the winters in Winona, Ill.

HUBERT ARTHUR BRYCE

Hubert A. Bryce, who farms about 3½ miles west of Nokomis, is a native of the community in which he lives. He was born on June 28, 1897, to William F. and Lula Belle (Lingle) Bryce.

The Bryce family, natives of Scotland, lived some years in Canada before coming to Montgomery Co. and settling in Butler. It was in Canada that William F. was born to James and Janet (Forbes) Bryce. In this family circle were three daughters and three sons, as follows: Miss Grace, Christiana (Mrs. Ed. Collier), Nettie (Mrs. Ed. Randall), George, William, and Arthur.

About 1870, Mr. James Bryce moved his family to a farm in Nokomis Twp. where he opened a blacksmith shop. With the help of the sons he was able to carry on both occupations successfully. While on this farm the younger members attained adulthood, married and each took his place in the community. When Mr. and Mrs. Bryce retired and moved to Nokomis to spend their remaining years, the son, William, and wife occupied the home place. It was there they reared their family consisting of the son, Hubert, and a daughter, Letha. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bryce continued to reside on the farm until their death. Mr. Bryce passed away in 1942 and Mrs. Bryce, in 1945.

In his youth, Hubert attended the rural school in his community and was graduated from the Nokomis High School in 1915. His life has been spent in farming except for a time when he attended Millikin University, a year in Florida, and the time spent working on a freighter traveling from New Orleans to ports in South America. On June 16, 1942, he was married to Miss Grace Walton who had been a teacher in the Decatur Public Schools for nineteen years - having previously taught several years in Montgomery Co. In 1939 she received a B. Ed. degree from I. S. N. U.

For a time the Bryces lived in Nokomis, but later bought a farm west of the city. They occupied that property until three years ago when they built a completely modern brick house on their adjoining farm, where they are now living.

CARSTENS FAMILY

One of the foremost citizens of Nokomis, in her earlier days was Mr. John Carstens who was born in Haltland, Germany. He came to the U. S. in 1852, settling at Alton. Here he was married to Miss Jeanette Hughs who was of Scotch descent. Their family numbered five: four daughters and one son. Mr. Carstens enlisted in the Army in 1861 and was enrolled in Co. K. 9th Ill. Infantry. Later he became Captain of what was known as the Preacher's Co. D. 122nd Ill. Infantry and served until the close of the war.

In 1868 the family came to Nokomis, where Mr. Carstens opened a hardware and grain business. He was very successful and as the enterprise grew, it was known as Carstens and son. He was elected in 1888 as Representative to the State Legislature where he was an efficient member. He was a staunch Republican, a member of the G. A. R. and of the I. O. O. F.

A daughter, Mrs. Anna Shannon, is still living. A grandson, Harold Arnold, and a grand daughter, Mrs. Jeannette Schaper, still live in Nokomis. Mr. Carstens died in 1913 and Mrs. Carstens in 1937.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CASE FAMILY

In 1856 two brothers, John and Samuel T. Strider, came to the Nokomis community from Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. They were among the earliest settlers. At his death John was sixty-four years of age. His grave was the first one made in the Nokomis Cemetery. His wife passed away in 1898 at the age of eighty-one.

Samuel T. Strider's family also spent their remaining years in Nokomis. Mr. Strider held the office of tax assessor at one time and was police magistrate from 1872 until 1886. They were members of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church where there is a record of their deaths. Mr. Strider died in 1897 at the age of ninety, and his wife passed away in 1891 at the age of eighty. Their family numbered eleven.

Molly, the youngest of the family, married Robert Middleton. He was a police officer for a time and a farmer for a number of years. He preceded his wife in death. Two daughters, Claudia and Lujenia, live near

Nokomis at present. Mrs. Middleton is remembered by all who knew her for her pleasing personality. She passed away in 1941.

Her daughter, Claudia, was married to Mr. Harvey Case in Washington, D. C., on January 20, 1898. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. T. Dewitt Talmage.

Mr. Case had lived in Bunker Hill where he attended the Military Academy, and was stationed in Washington, D. C. for a time. After his father's death he returned to Ill. to take charge of the estate, coming to the farm north of Nokomis where the family still resides. Lujenia became a teacher in the Nokomis Public Schools, but is now retired. She is married to Mr. Joe Huber.

The family of Harvey and Claudia Case are Howard, who manages the farm and is considered an excellent business man, much interested in agriculture; and Virginia, who taught in the Nokomis Public Schools and also in schools near by, but is retired.

As descendants of one of the old-time families in the Nokomis community, the Case family is held in high esteem, as true friends and good neighbors.

★ ★ ★ ★ EASTERDAY FAMILY

Mr. Elias S. Easterday was born in New Somerset, O., on Oct. 4, 1834. At the age of twenty-one he came with the family to the Nokomis community. At that time (1855) our city was just a station stop for the railway trains.

On Feb. 20, 1861, he was married to Sarah Elizabeth Pyle and they lived on a farm until 1880 when they moved into town. Mr. Easterday began work here as a carpenter. Their family numbered five: Edgar, Jessie, Walter, Mabel, and Karl. At this time only two are living—Mabel and Karl. There were three grandchildren: Wayne, son of Walter and Lula Graden Easterday; Anna Mae and David, children of Karl and Lydia Engelman Easterday. Wayne, now deceased, leaves three children, Harold, Donald and Louise. David's three sons are Dan, Marc, and Ken. So there are six grandchildren. Anna Mae, now Mrs. Flesher, has no family.

Mr. Easterday, at the age of fourteen,

was confirmed in the Lutheran faith and attended St. Mark's church in Nokomis.

★ ★ ★ ★ EEKHOFF FAMILY

Gerhard Eekhoff came to this country from Germany in 1854. He married Antje Woltmann, also a native of Germany. They first lived on a farm near Nokomis. Later Mr. Eekhoff was in the mercantile business in town with his brother-in-law, Mr. John Woltmann. After his death Mrs. Eekhoff continued her association with the Woltmann Store for many years, becoming affectionately known to the community as "Tante Antje."

There were five children in the family: Johanna, wife of J. F. Reinders; Andrew J.; Arnold G.; Anna, wife of W. R. McCaslin; Kathryn, wife of the Rev. W. J. Kowert, pastor of the Trinity Lutheran church at that time. Two daughters were born to the Reinders, four to the Kowerts, and one son to the McCaslins, all of whom have children and two of whom have grandchildren.

Most of the five Eekhoffs left Nokomis within a few years after marriage. Arnold and his wife, Elizabeth, returned for a period to take charge of the J. Woltmann Co. south side store. The McCaslins made their home in Nokomis from 1932 to 1947, when Walter established headquarters here for his engineering firm. Anna, who is the sole survivor of the original family, now resides in California with her son.

Only Andrew spent his entire life here. He was married in 1908 to Miss Charlotte Holmes of Chicago, a Nokomis High School teacher. In early life a printer, he later conducted a wholesale poultry and egg business. He was postmaster from 1913 to 1921 and again from 1935 until his death in 1940. During this time he also carried on an insurance business.

The name of A. J. Eekhoff was intimately associated with civic, school, church and political affairs. He held the offices of mayor, president of the school board, Sunday School superintendent, Church councilman, and numerous others. He was a leader in movements for the advancement of his home town and made an outstanding contribution to Nokomis community life.

EVANS FAMILY

Wm. B. Evans (1856-1918) and Hattie J. Evans (1866-1930) lived their entire lives in Nokomis. Mr. Evans was active in city affairs having served as police officer and constable for many years. Mrs. Evans was a faithful worker in the Presbyterian Church and Order of Eastern Star. They were the parents of ten children: Preston, Verne, Agnes, Leigh, Frances, Mildred and Harold. Reaves, Benny and Sadie are deceased. We are proud to honor our parents at this Centennial Celebration.

FOSTER FAMILY

The subject of this sketch, Mr. George Foster, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1839. He was the son of James and Margaret Foster who brought their family to America in 1847 settling on a farm in Scioto Co., O. Their crossing the Atlantic was a very stormy time. The vessel, a sailing one, was crowded and at one time during a storm the passengers were ordered to throw some of their possessions overboard, to lighten the load. In one of the Foster chests, cast into the sea, was the family Bible containing names and dates.

When the Civil War broke out Mr. George Foster enlisted as a private in Co. E. Ohio Volunteer Infantry. His company was sent to raid the Va. and Tenn. Railway. They met the enemy at many points: Lexington, Staunton, and Winchester, at which place they were attached to Gen. Sheridan's troops. At the second battle of Winchester Mr. Foster was wounded and sent to a hospital in Philadelphia. He had recovered and joined his comrades, when news came of Lee's surrender.

In 1867, having come to Montgomery Co., Ill., he met and married Miss Lucetta Pattin-gale, daughter of a prominent and well-to-do farmer from whom she inherited the farm which was the Foster home for seventy-two years. They were the parents of five children: Margaret, Joseph, Hattie J., Daisy, and James Ross. None is now living except Margaret, who is Mrs. Kensil of Shelbyville.

Mr. Foster was a staunch Republican, casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. He was a member of the Cottingham Post

G. A. R. and was commander for one term, then vice-commander. Being one of the tallest he always carried the flag on their Memorial Day march. Mr. Foster passed away in 1905 at a hospital in Chicago where he had gone for treatment, and Mrs. Foster died July 6, 1929, at the home of her son, Ross, in Fillmore.

GELLY, FREDERICK, O'DONNELL FAMILIES

Robert Gelly was born in Ireland in 1845, and came to this country when he was five. His parents settled on a farm near Trenton, Illinois, and Mr. Gelly bought a farm south-east of Nokomis in 1870. In 1876, he married Mary Ellen Richardson, who had been teaching school in Trenton following her graduation from Presbyterian Female Seminary at Jacksonville, Illinois.

After a few years, the couple moved into Nokomis, where Mr. Gelly was active in community affairs. A staunch Republican, he was never an office-seeker, but served as postmaster here from 1889 to 1893. For some years he had a general merchandise store on Main Street and was later associated with his son, George, in general insurance. He was one of the early directors of the Nokomis Building Association. Mr. Gelly died in 1915, and Mrs. Gelly died two years later.

Of their eight children, the oldest, Leona, was a typhoid victim in 1898. George, an invalid throughout his life because of a boy-hood injury, and a well-known figure on Main Street during the early 1920's, died in 1926. Sadie, who taught music in Nokomis for many years, and later married Ray C. Wilson, died in 1953.

Of the surviving children, Robert Gelly, Jr., lives in Van Buren, Arkansas, having retired from his pharmacy there. Ingalls, also a retired druggist, lives in Indianapolis with his wife, formerly Florence Brenner of Nokomis. Rexford is a jeweler in Muncie, Indiana. The two daughters, Mrs. J. F. O'Donnell and Mrs. H. G. Frederick, have always lived in Nokomis.

Mrs. O'Donnell, formerly Edith Gelly, was married to J. F. O'Donnell in 1903. Mr. O'Donnell was with the Paddock Lumber Company and later worked for some years

in the office at the North Mine. He died here in 1943.

Their daughter, Esther, was graduated from University of Illinois and married L. E. Nantkes in 1936. Mr. Nantkes is president of the First National Bank and is a well-known Nokomis business man. Mrs. Nantkes teaches in Nokomis High School, and their son, Donnell, is a student there.

Cecil O'Donnell attended Bradley Polytechnic Institute. He served with the Navy during World War II and is now a jeweler in San Mateo, California, where he lives with his wife, Ethel.

Mrs. Frederick, formerly Inez Gelly, was married in 1904 to Henry G. Frederick, who had come here from Pana about 1900 as a cigar manufacturer. Mr. Frederick died in 1920, and Mrs. Frederick became a teacher in the Nokomis schools, retiring after 26 years of teaching.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick had five children. Charles, the oldest, edited the Free Press-Progress for a time, and after his graduation from University of Illinois served as Assistant Dean of Men there until called to active military service in 1940. He became a colonel in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and is now with the Air Force as Secretary of the Joint Army-Air Force Welfare Board in Washington, D. C.

Ruth, who attended MacMurray College at Jacksonville, has been with the American National Red Cross for 25 years, having had assignments in Europe during World War II, and in both Europe and the Far East since that time. She has just gone to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, in Cuba, to be Red Cross Field Director.

George has always been associated with the candy business. A past president of the National Association of Candy Manufacturers, he is now in New York as president of Loft Candy Company, the largest in the world. He is married and has three children.

Olga was graduated from Washington University, and is married to Dr. Alfred Gellhorn, Director of Cancer Research for Columbia University Medical School. They live in Englewood, New Jersey, with their five daughters.

Harry, after graduation from the School of Journalism at Illinois, was a reporter on the Honolulu Star-Bulletin when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He covered the fighting in the Pacific for United Press throughout World War II, and is now editor and publisher of the Bangkok Post, the only English language newspaper in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Gelly family has been closely associated with the life of Nokomis over a period of 86 years, with the two daughters, one grand-daughter, and one great-grandson still living here.

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ALF GRIFFIN FAMILY

Mr. Alf Griffin came to Nokomis in 1878 having accepted a position in the National Bank.

Later, with his brother, Jesse, he opened a hardware and furniture store, but after a time disposed of his part to his brother.

He then became interested in the Real Estate and Loan Business, and in 1907 he helped organize the Farmers' National Bank. He was its president until he retired in 1920.

Mr. and Mrs. Griffin (Belle Freeland) with their daughters, Genevieve and Virginia, were members of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Mr. Griffin passed away on Dec. 7, 1942.

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HALLER FAMILY

The subject of this sketch, Jacob Haller, was born in Ross Co., O., on Jan. 25, 1834, and with his parents moved to Ill. in 1842. When about eighteen, he, with a group of young men, made a trip across country to the California gold fields. He was very fortunate in opening a productive mine and also in obtaining farm land in the Sacramento Valley, which he operated successfully for eleven years.

Mr. Haller was married while in California to Miss Nancy Ann Abrahamson, and on the trip back to Illinois, they came by sea, around Cape Horn. Their family numbered ten of whom only six reached adulthood: Catherine, Nancy, Eugene, Millie, and Milton. They lived in Audubon Twp. for a time, before moving to their large farm, just south of Nokomis. Mr. Haller was one of the founders of the Nokomis National Bank, and

a director during his life-time. He was an able financier, ever upright and honest in his methods, a Mason, and, with his family, attended the M. E. Church. He passed away in 1916, Mrs. Haller in 1920. A granddaughter, Mrs. L. R. Kessinger, still resides in Nokomis, also a great grandson, David Kessinger and his family.

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HARTSOCK FAMILY

Mr. L. M. Hartsock was born in Johnsville, Md. in 1841 on a farm in Frederick County. When four years of age he was left an orphan and lived with another farmer near by. He had very little schooling and entered a flour mill at eighteen to learn the trade. He worked at several mills in Md., but in 1872 he came to the E. A. Cooley & Co's. flour mill at Nokomis. He and Mr. Hobson bought this mill later and at Mr. Hobson's death he acquired it all. Back of it lay the well remembered Mill Pond which supplied water for the steam boilers, and also gave the youngsters a winter skating rink. In 1888 the mill burned. In 1889 with B. F. McGrew, Mr. Hartsock built a new 150 bbl. roller mill nearer the railway and later bought McGrew's share. It was known as The Nokomis Roller Mills. His products were sold in New England, New York and even exported. It was in this mill Mr. Hartsock fell and his death was the result.

He was married to Miss Frances Cooley in 1868, a native of Indiana. Their family consisted of two boys and two girls. All are deceased.

They built the lovely residence, near the mill on the corner of State and Oak St., which still is one of the nicer homes facing Route 16.

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HILL FAMILY

The subject of this sketch, Lewis Hill, was born near Fillmore in 1834. Later the family moved to a farm in Audubon Twp. known as the Burk place. When Mr. Hill was about twenty years of age, news came from California of the discovery of gold. With a group of young adventurers he started for the gold fields. They travelled on foot driving a large herd of cattle, with three covered wagons drawn by teams of oxen carrying

their provisions. They made the trip in six months and fourteen days.

He returned after two years, was married to Mary Matilda Whitmore, and resumed farming. They were the parents of eleven children of whom only one is now living.

When Lincoln called for troops at the beginning of the War between the States, sixteen young men met at a saw mill south of Nokomis and pledged each other to enlist. Everyone kept the pledge. All enlisted and as far as is known only Mr. Hill and one other, William McNichols, returned. Mr. Hill was mustered in at Camp Butler into Co. B 73rd Illinois Infantry. They were sent on to Louisville, where they joined Sherman's Division of the Army of the Cumberland. This army fought at Perryville, Stone River, Murfreesboro and Chickamauga. It was a hard campaign and saved the State of Tennessee for the Union.

After his return from the army, Mr. Hill began again with taking care of his farm and continued until his retirement, when he moved into town. He was a member of the Cottingham Post, G. A. R.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill celebrated their fiftieth anniversary, and ten years later their sixtieth. Mrs. Noll, their daughter, came to share it with them, from Bethany, Missouri, where she resided until her death.

Mr. Hill passed away in 1918 at the age of eighty-four, at his home in Nokomis. His funeral was held under the auspices of the G. A. R. Rev. S. A. McIntosh conducted the services, he being the minister of the M. E. Church at that time.

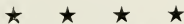
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HUBBARD FAMILY

Isaac G. Hubbard was born in Ashtabula, O., Nov. 10, 1835, and came to Hillsboro in a covered wagon in 1872. Later he bought eighty acres, one and one-half miles southeast of Nokomis, establishing a nursery. He devoted his time to growing hedge, evergreens, berries, and fruit trees. Mr. Hubbard developed the Champion Peach, which took prizes at the World's Fair in Chicago, in 1893. He raised and budded hundreds of trees each year making sure they were true to name.

Mr. Hubbard married Miss Alice Mowbry in 1874. Her father helped in

building and finishing the steamship, Great Eastern, that laid the Trans-Atlantic Cable. There were five children: Iola C., who passed away on Dec. 21, 1955; Isaac, a physician in Manson, Wash.; Edward D., a Nokomis dentist; Alice, and Kate, wife of W. F. Bald. All attended and were graduated from the Nokomis Schools. The family were members of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church where Mr. Hubbard was a deacon for several years. Mr. Hubbard passed away in Texas where he, Mrs. Hubbard, Iola, and Alice had lived for a time. He was buried at Nokomis.

The fruit from the Hubbard Peach Orchard was shipped in baskets, hauled to Nokomis or Oconee by wagon. Mr. Hubbard and Fred Price were the first to spray orchard trees, in this locality.



HUGENER FAMILY

Mr. Clemens Hugener, soldier, farmer, butcher, miner, and handyman came to the U. S. from Switzerland in 1880. At that time he was twenty years old. After several years he sent passage money to Miss Maria Scroggins, a lady he had never seen. She was a sister of his brother's wife. They were married in Nokomis in 1890 and spent the rest of their lives in this city which was over fifty years. He died in 1945 and Mrs. Hugener in 1951.

Their family consisted of two sons and two daughters: Clara, now Mrs. Jann whose home is in Mattoon; Paul, who passed away at the age of 21; Marie, now Mrs. Gorka who lives in Chicago; and Christian, who for about 35 years has been the local electrician. He was married to Miss LaRue Brookman of Irving in 1919. They have had four children: Mary K., wife of George Bryce who is Postmaster now at Irving; Blanche M., a registered nurse, wife of William Nash, of the Montgomery Service Co.; Paul O., deceased; Roberta J., wife of a prominent Butler farmer, Carl Niehaus; and Christian, Jr. of the U. S. A. F. at Wichita, Kansas.

The Nokomis citizens are made quite conscious of Chris Hugener when any electric trouble strikes, and he is on hand as quickly as possible.

WILLIAM KETTELKAMP FAMILY

William R. Kettelkamp came from Germany to Montgomery Co., Ill., by way of Edwardsville. He was married to Miss Lisetta Bollman. Their family numbered five: Samuel R., who was one of the first rural mail carriers at Nokomis, married Miss Emma Best, lived for a time on his farm and is now retired. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Dec., 1953.

Frank, who was a postal clerk at Nokomis for twenty-seven years, has retired. He and Mrs. Kettelkamp celebrated their golden wedding Nov. 23, 1954.

Albert O., who was Postmaster in Nokomis for a time and later mayor of the city, moved to Hot Springs, Ark., where he passed away in 1939.

August, who was killed by a tractor at the home place, left a son, Edgar, on the farm and a son, Gilbert, Professor of Education at the U. of I.

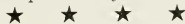
Clara, who married Mr. George Hardy, is the mother of Miss Velma one of the Nokomis teachers. She and Mr. Hardy are both deceased.

William Kettelkamp purchased land north of Nokomis; after farming for a number of years he retired and came into the city.

He owned eighty acres of land off the north and east city limits, and had part of it laid off into lots. This is one of the newer residential sections of the city and is known as "Kettelkamp's Addition."

He took an active part in the South Fork M. E. Church and was one of the founders of the Grace M. E.

His brother, Fred, donated the land for the Kettelkamp Cemetery, north of Nokomis.



LAW FAMILY

Mr. Fredrick Law, one of the pioneers, was born in Baden, Germany, in 1843. He came to the U. S. by way of Canada and in 1867 opened a harness shop in Nokomis. He was very successful and by good management acquired many pieces of property in Nokomis and valuable farm lands.

He was married in 1868 to Miss Susannah Jane Barringer. She passed away three

years later leaving two daughters, Rosina and Nellie.

In 1873 he married Miss Amanda Cole. Their family consisted of two sons and a daughter, one son dying in infancy. Charles Law married Miss Florence Durdy and is now deceased. Dora became the wife of Charles Crumbaugh and still makes Nokomis her home.

One grandson, Fred Crumbaugh, has won recognition as an artist. His paintings have been shown at several National exhibitions and at the Ill. State Galleries.

Mr. Law died on March 24, 1929. Mrs. Law's death occurred Oct. 23, 1949.

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McCASLIN FAMILY

Marshal Oliver McCaslin was born in 1854. His father, Demarcus Asbery McCaslin, grandfather, Hugh McCaslin, great-grandfather, James McCaslin, a native of Ireland, lived in North Carolina and Kentucky. They settled in Illinois in 1828.

Marshal grew up on a farm near Nokomis. In 1879 he married Mary Angeline Gaines, daughter of George Washington and Elizabeth Gaines of Donnellson, Illinois. After their marriage they lived in Macoupin county for nine years, moving to Nokomis in 1886. Here they continued to live the rest of their lives. They were members of the Baptist Church.

Marshal, at one time, was Nokomis city marshal. He was a building contractor until he retired in 1923. His wife died in 1932, at the age of 74. He died in 1947, at the age of 93.

Five children were born to the couple. Lester Guy, Walter Roy, Hugh, Earl Asbery, and Mary Ginevra. Lester died when four months old.

Walter, married to Anna Eekhoff, became a civil engineer. The family lived in Kansas City, Mo. from 1914 to 1932. Upon returning to Nokomis, Walter became active in community life. He was vice-president of the A. Lincoln Council of Boy Scouts of America. He became city engineer, a position previously held in 1910. His engineer contracting firm, "McCaslin and Company", was in business here at the time of his death

in 1947. A son, Walter Roy, born in Nokomis who subsequently worked in the Nokomis Postoffice, living now in Arcadia, Calif., has three children.

Hugh married Florence Lock of Hillsboro. He was a pharmacist. Until 1910 he worked for Kempton drug store in Nokomis. Later he owned a drug business in Snyder, Okla., until his death in 1949. He was then residing in Okay, Okla., on the Daley cattle ranch, which he owned. There are two sons: Harold, who lives in Chickasha, Okla., has three children; Ronald, who lives in Tulsa, Okla., has two children. Earl died in 1906 at the age of 19. Ginevra married Ross A. Taylor of Oklahoma, a civil engineer. They live in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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H. C. MILLER FAMILY

Harry C. Miller and his wife, Florence Condo Miller, came to Nokomis in 1900—Mr. Miller as Superintendent of Schools. Later he combined law practice with real estate business. Their children are Mrs. William E. Carson (Alta), Kansas City Kansas; Mrs. James P. Haynes (Agnes), Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. Carl Treece (Vinita), Grand Junction, Colo., Mrs. Gunnard A. Nelson (Florence), Overland Park, Kansas, and Mrs. John T. Hand (Harryet) River Rouge, Mich. The family home was at 220 East Union. Mr. Miller died in 1947, his wife, in 1952.

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THE DR. J. C. OSBORN FAMILY

Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Osborn, formerly Miss Rhoda Rush, came to Nokomis, from Jerseyville in 1873. They lived for a time on a farm. Later having studied to become a veterinarian at Charleston, Ill., Dr. Osborn opened an office in Nokomis. His coming meant much to the farmers and stock raisers of the community. He was an alderman for twenty-four years and acting mayor during Mayor Woltmann's trip to Europe.

The family numbered ten, only six of whom lived to adulthood, and only two still living—Mrs. Mae Neely and Mrs. Ethel Hansen.

Mrs. Osborn was a direct descendant of Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

F. J. PANNWITT FAMILY

In 1882 a young blacksmith and horse-shoer, F. J. Pannwitt, came to Nokomis to work for J. L. Freasier whose shop was located on the back of the present Post Office site, facing the park.

In 1885 he bought out Mr. Freasier's business and property and was married to Miss Margaret Essman of Bland, Mo., the same year. By hard work he expanded the business until it employed six men, and many Pannwitt farm wagons built in his shop were to be seen on the highways around Nokomis.

In 1904 he bought out the Challecombe implement business, corner of Central and Spruce Streets and sometime later sold the blacksmith business to Louis Priess.

In 1908 Mr. Pannwitt's son Edwin F. Pannwitt, just home from Gem City Business College, was taken into the business and the firm name changed to F. J. Pannwitt and Son, under which name the business continued until it was sold in 1946.

In 1912 the two story brick building next to the implement store was built and the hardware business added to the implement business; in 1916 furniture was also added.

Mr. F. J. Pannwitt died on October 8, 1919, and the business was continued by his son, Edwin F. Pannwitt, and his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Fred P. Layer. The implement business was sold in 1920 and the hardware and furniture business in 1946. Mrs. Pannwitt died in 1928.

Edwin F. Pannwitt was married to Effie W. Battles in 1908 and they have two children. Their daughter Alice May married Rev. Reynold E. Best, at present pastor of West Seattle Baptist Church. They have one daughter, Suzanne.

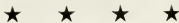
Their son Fred J. Pannwitt married Barbara Semple of New York City and they have two daughters, Monica Jean and Elizabeth. Fred received the Master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in New York, served in the Navy in World War II, and is now in the editorial department of the Chicago Daily News.

Florence L. Pannwitt was married to Fred P. Layer in 1919 and they have two

children. Their daughter, Margaret, is married to Kenneth R. Wood, who is a statistician at the U. S. Quarter Master Depot in Chicago. They have two children: a son, Paul F., and a daughter, Diane.

Their son, Paul, after serving in the army eleven months in Korea, married Marilyn Bauman. They are at present conducting Layer's Store located in the former Schaper Drug Store building, selling gifts, paints, electrical appliances, and T.V. sets.

Since selling their business in 1946 Edwin F. Pannwitt has been secretary-treasurer of the Nokomis Building Association and Fred P. Layer has been a traveling salesman selling housewares.



MR. AND MRS. A. P. PAUSCHERT

1884-1955

1885-

Born at Shelbyville, the Pauscherts grew up, went to church and school, and married there, on June 19, 1907. Before their marriage she had taught school; he had clerked in a clothing and dry goods store and studied photography, practiced the profession a while in Louisville, Ky., and bought a studio in Colfax, McLean county, Ill., in 1906.

There their first son was born; they soon came to Nokomis, purchased the old Whittlesey Studio, and opened it as "The Pauschert Studio" Dec. 15, 1908.

The studio was operated continuously until they retired and closed out the business at the end of 1953 -- after 45 years of service to the community in which they developed and deeply valued and enjoyed a wide acquaintance while recording the photographic

history of families from births, through confirmations, graduations, and marriages, to deaths.

At the time of their retirement, Mr. Pauschert was the Nokomis business community's senior business man in point of continuous and unchanged operation.

Immediately upon reaching Nokomis, in 1908, they affiliated with St. Mark's Lutheran Church and remained active therein, both long occupying offices in its organizations.

Mrs. Pauschert was the first president of the Grade School Parent-Teacher Association. She was a life member and past president of the St. Mark's Missionary Society, and president for many years of the Ladies' Aid. She was affiliated with the Royal Neighbors. Mrs. Pauschert died Aug. 11, 1955, after 5-months' illness.

Mr. Pauschert served 28 years on the St. Mark's Church Council, was Sunday School Superintendent many years and several times president of the Men's Brotherhood. He served 9 years on the old Grade School Board of Education, and several years as secretary of the Merchants Association. In 1927, the last election under the aldermanic form of city government, he was elected city treasurer, and after completing that 2-year elective term was re-appointed term after term by succeeding mayors under the commission form until 1952. He is now a member of the Board of Directors of the Nokomis Building Association, and has property interests in Pana. He continues to occupy the family home.

There are 2 living children, and 2 grandchildren: Donald of Pana, secretary-treasurer and general manager of Pana News, Inc., publisher of the Pana News-Palladium, the Tower Hill Times, and the Herrick Bulletin; and Helen, wife of Attorney George Aichele of Western Springs, Ill., and their two sons, George and Donald. The Pauscherts' 3rd child and younger son, George Paul, died here of poliomyelitis in 1931 at the age of 10.

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SCHAPER FAMILIES

Charles Schaper was born in Westerbrog, Germany, and came to the U. S. at the age of twenty-one, locating at Hillsboro, Ill.

He was married to Miss Almeda Cole. Their family numbered ten of whom only four lived to adulthood: George, Frank, William, and Bessie.

Charles Schaper was a carpenter, but after coming to Nokomis in 1865 he, with others, conducted a lumber business. The firm was known as Webb, Carstens, and Schaper.

He was the first president of the Board of Trustees when Nokomis was organized as a village in 1867. He also served as Town Clerk, Assessor, Justice of the Peace and President of the School Board. He passed away in 1904.

William Schaper, son of Charles and Almeda Schaper, was married to Miss Mollie Durdy. They had no children. They lived in Nokomis for a time, later moving to Indianapolis, Ind. He was a salesman for the firm of Hollweg and Reese, wholesale dealers in chinaware. He passed away in 1917.

Another son, Frank H. Schaper, was married to Miss Julia Herman of Raymond. He was a painter and interior decorator in Nokomis for many years. He passed away in 1920. His family consisted of a son, Roy, and a daughter, Nina. Roy was married to Miss Huldah Kettelkamp in 1918 and lived for several years at Nokomis. They are the parents of a son, Kenneth, and a daughter, Yvonne Schaper Lewis. Both are married and have families.

While in Nokomis, Roy was associated for a time with Floyd Sides in the grocery firm known as Sides and Schaper, and later with C. W. Barnstable in a feed and hatchery business. He now lives in Pana where he operates a business of his own. In his business ventures he has been very successful conducting affairs with marked ability. The son and daughter live in Pana and are associated with the Schaper Feed and Hatchery.

Nina, now Mrs. Roitero, lives at the family home place in Nokomis.

George H., eldest son of Charles and Almeda Schaper, married Miss Leora Culp. He was five years old when the family came to Nokomis in 1865. He attended the Nokomis Schools and afterward entered the Shurtleff College in Alton, Ill. He began work for Day and Upstone at their drug store, at the age of sixteen, and later purchased the business.

He was continuously at this store, at the same location—109 W. State St.—for sixty-nine years, or until the day of his death in 1945. He was a successful business man, held in high esteem by all who knew him. He held the following offices: City Clerk, Director of Nokomis National Bank, Member of the School Board for twenty years, and also of the Cemetery Board. He was connected with all the civic organizations of his time. His family numbered three - Edward, Fred C., and Newell.

Edward was graduated from The St. Louis College of Pharmacy and was associated with his father in Nokomis. He married Miss Genevieve Smith. Their family consisted of one son, George Eugene, who died at about thirteen years of age, and a daughter Jane, now Mrs. John Wright, who lives in Detroit. Edward passed away in 1953.

Fred C., the second son, after finishing Nokomis High School attended the Gem City Business College at Quincy, Ill. He was associated with his father in the drug store for many years. At present he is with the State of Ill. as Revenue Tax Inspector. He was married to Miss Helen Tevis whose death occurred in 1942. Their daughters, Leora Schaper Kralik and Sue Schaper Balzrina, have families of their own. Leora resides at Hillsboro, Ill., and Sue in San Diego, California. The present Mrs. Fred Schaper was Miss Marie Lebkuecher of Beardstown. They have recently built a new home on School Street, Nokomis.

Newell, third son of George and Leora Schaper, was married to Miss Mary Harter of Indianapolis, Ind. They have one son, Ralph Newell, who is a Baptist minister, living in California. He is married and three children bless this union. Newell has been a professional pianist at Kansas City for over twenty years, and for many years, and is now, Staff Pianist at Radio Station W. D. A. F. and T. V.

Bessie, the only daughter of Charles and Almada Schaper, years ago moved away from Nokomis. She lived in Chicago until her death in 1923.

The Schaper name has been intimately associated with Nokomis since 1865, and is

proud of any part it may have had in helping make Nokomis the city we now all live in and of which we are so proud.

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SIPPELL FAMILY

Mr. George Sippell was born in Ohio in 1845. He learned watch-making at Covington, Kentucky. In 1868 he opened a jewelry store in Nokomis, retiring in 1902.

He was married to Annie Eliza Hale in 1871. A daughter, Mrs. Essie Randle, lives now at Clayton, Mo.

Mr. Sippell was a director of the Nokomis National Bank, for many years, and was president from 1893 until his death in 1911. He is remembered as a man of scrupulous integrity.

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SPERRY FAMILY

The Sperry ancestors (Puritans or Separatists) lived in England previous to 1600. Being persecuted by the Episcopalian Government, they fled to Holland where they were again persecuted; then they secured a grant of land located in Virginia from the King of England and came to America on a Dutch sailing vessel about the same time as the Pilgrims. They may have been stowaways in the Dutch slave ship in 1619. (Who knows?) They made a settlement in Virginia and named the town Sperryville which now is on U. S. Route 211. After two generations they moved to Ross Co., Ohio, where they lived two generations, then down the Scioto and Ohio Rivers, up the Mississippi to Quincy, Ill. Shortly after the Sperry family left the boat at Quincy, Ill., an explosion occurred, which sent boat and cargo to the bottom of the river. Then to Barry, Pike Co., where Hiram B. and Mary Ann (Doran) Sperry were married in 1858. Later they moved to Waverly and Auburn where Hiram Sperry was the only teacher in each school. In 1864 to Audubon Twp. where he bought the E¹/₂ of S. W. ¹/₄ 31-10-1 and Chris Balsley bought the W¹/₂ S. W. 31-10-1. On this 160 acres was a one-room log cabin in which these families lived. Such was pioneer life.

Present generation: Cicero Sperry, Norman Sperry, Milo Sperry, Minnie Pennepacker, Mary Graden, Mattie Huddleston,

Ione Traylor, Clarence Sperry, Edgar Sperry, Nettie Lounsbury, May Sperry. Living as of 4-15-'56: Mary Graden, Nettie Lounsbury, May Sperry and Edgar Sperry. Large families, farmers, 40% school teachers, 60% Methodist and Baptist, Anti Socialists, Republicans. Indebted to library for history, to Stranges, to Traylor, and to histories of Montg. Co.

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TAYLOR FAMILY

About the year 1850 Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor came to Illinois from New Jersey by way of Niles, Michigan, and Alton, Illinois. They settled on a farm north of Nokomis where Mr. Taylor became interested in the buying and selling of farm lands. Later they moved into town where he aided in founding the Old Nokomis National Bank. He was an executive of this organization until his death.

Their family numbered five: Augusta, William, Eugene, Jerome, and Horace. Augusta and Jerome never married, and lived in or near Nokomis all their lives.

Eugene married and brought up his family on the home farm, where one son still resides. Later he moved to Kansas, where he purchased extensive wheat lands.

Horace married after moving to Chicago. He became a well known cartoon artist. He was associated with the Chicago Record Herald, a daily newspaper. Later, becoming a free lance artist, he did work for Harper's, Everybody's, and other prominent magazines of that time.

William was married to Anna Dravo Day, on April 20, 1880. He was associated with the Old Nokomis National Bank at that time. Later he conducted a mercantile establishment. He was born June 26, 1857, and passed away on Sept. 11, 1920. Mrs. Taylor was born on Oct. 22, 1862, and died on Nov. 23, 1934. Their family consisted of two daughters: Florence Elizabeth and Nella Day.

Florence Elizabeth, the younger, was a successful business woman for many years. Her death occurred on Jan. 2, 1951. Nella Day was married to Farrish Arnot Reisner in 1906. Their family numbered two: Ernest William and Anna Elizabeth. Ernest mar-

ried Miss Barbara Watters of Winchester, Mass. Their home is in Fairfax, Virginia. He is with the U. S. government in Washington, D. C. Anna Elizabeth married Alvin O. Fuhrmann of St. Paul, Minn. They reside at Palos Verdes Estates, California. Their only son, Alan Taylor, is a student in Michigan State College. Mrs. Reisner has been most successful in the business world, and lives at present in Washington, D. C.

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THE VANDEVER FAMILY

A. K. Vandever, A. E. Vandever and Lester K. Vandever came to Nokomis in 1908 starting in the newspaper business by purchasing the Nokomis Progress from W. P. Hagthorp. This partnership continued until 1918, at which time A. E. Vandever purchased the interest of his partners and with Luther E. Shoemaker consolidated the two Nokomis papers under the name of the Free Press-Progress.

A. K. Vandever was born in Moweaqua, Ill., September 4, 1855. His parents were Aaron S. and Isabella Vandever, the former, a practicing physician at Oconee, Illinois. He was following his profession there when in response to his country's need he enlisted in Company I, Thirteenth Missouri Infantry, and was wounded at the battle of Fort Donelson. In 1863 he moved to Irving, Ill., but he never recovered from his wound which ultimately caused his death in 1868. It is a matter of record that Aaron S. Vandever and Isabella Slater were the first or second couple to be married in Audubon township.

When 27 years of age A. K. Vandever began teaching school in Montgomery County and in 1900 he turned his attention to journalistic work by publishing the Irving Times; he was active in the best interests of Irving and later in Nokomis. He was married in 1884 to Miss Mamie Haller of Irving. They have both departed this life.

A. E. Vandever remained actively engaged in the newspaper business for 45 years, but in 1953 he retired on account of failing health. A. E. Vandever was married in 1908 to Miss Lela P. Bond of Irving, and to this union was born one son, Edmond B. Vandever. They have four grandchildren. Mr. Vandever served Nokomis as Supervisor and

Mayor. He was a member of the Rotary Club and his lodge is the Nokomis A. F. and A. M. 456.

Lester K. Vandever, leaving the newspaper profession in 1918, attended law school and practiced law in Nokomis and Witt for a number of years. It was while living in Nokomis that he was elected State's Attorney of Montgomery County; he also was appointed as Assistant Attorney General. It was while filling the office of State's Attorney that he moved to Hillsboro to practice law. He is a member of Nokomis A. F. & A. M. 456 and of the Rotary Club in Hillsboro. He also has taken an active part in the development of both Nokomis and Hillsboro.

In 1916 Mr. Vandever was married to Miss Nora Bolding of Nokomis, and to them were born three children: Ralph A., Lester J. and Mrs. Harry Hoff. They are grandparents of nine children.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Vandever are members of St. Mark's Lutheran church in Nokomis and Mr. and Mrs. Lester K. Vandever are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church in Hillsboro.

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J. L. WALCHER FAMILY

J. L. Walcher has practiced Veterinary Medicine in Nokomis since 1909. He is a graduate of the Chicago Veterinary College, and his wife is the former Miss Lucile Newton.

Dr. Walcher has been affiliated with Nokomis Building Association for twenty years, and is now president of that Association.

The Walchers have one son, Dr. Dwain, who was graduated from the University of Chicago in 1940. He spent five years at Yale University. At present he is on the staff at Indiana Medical Center, Indianapolis, Ind.

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WALTON FAMILY

Mrs. Nancy Walton came into the Nokomis community in 1862, bringing her twin children, Ned and Nellie. They lived on a farm southeast of Nokomis. When Ned grew to manhood, he took over the farm, and Nellie married Mr. Arch Bussong and moved to St. Jacobs, Ill.

In 1887 Ned was married to Miss Ella

Beck and later they purchased the home farm, two miles southeast of town where they spent the remainder of their days. They were highly respected by everyone as good neighbors and true friends. Their family numbered three: Clyde, now deceased who married Miss Cordelia Pierson; Nellie E., who became the wife of Henry Opperman and who died on April 13, 1954, the result of an automobile accident; Clara Grace who became Mrs. Hubert Bryce, and lives now on a farm west of Nokomis. There are two grandchildren: Iola Opperman Barger of Decatur and Claralena Opperman Nowatka of Dayton, O.

Mr. Walton's death occurred in July, 1933, at the age of seventy-three. Mrs. Walton died on July 12, 1928, aged seventy-eight.

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WEAKLEY FAMILY

J. C. Weakley was married to Miss Carrie Cottingham on June 8, 1884, at Hillsboro. He had come to Nokomis in 1883, working as a tinner. Later he added a stock of hardware to his place on W. State St.

After his retirement Mr. and Mrs. Weakley lived at their home, corner State and Oak St. She preceded him in death only a few months. Their family numbered four: Harry, who died in 1895; Marguerite, who passed away in 1922; Emory, who married Catherine Hoehn; and Ray L. whose wife was Hazel Kuhle. There are four grandchildren: Ronald Rabold, Robert Rabold, Margaret and Helen Rabold. There are three great grandchildren: Kelsey and Rodger Rabold and Carl Willenbrock.

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WEAVER FAMILY

The subject of this sketch, Alson F. Weaver, was born in Madison Co. in 1838. After completing the courses of study at Edwardsville, he entered the Wesleyan University of Delaware, O., graduating in 1861.

In August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in the 117th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was at once moved up to Sergeant. His company served in the southwest. He was with Bank's Expedition up Red River, where they were under fire constantly. This and other battles helped to save Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana for the

Union. He was mustered out at Springfield, Ill., in 1865.

In 1866 he was married to Miss Martha A. Dunn at Zanesville, Ohio. Of their family of eight, six lived to adulthood: Lora, Winnie, Dunn, Hettie, Earl, and Harry. Only three of these are now living, Dunn, Earl and Hettie.

Mr. and Mrs. Weaver lived on their farms for some time, first in Madison Co. and then Montgomery Co. near Nokomis. In 1880 Mr. Weaver moved into town and opened a general store on West Main Street using the ground floor. The second floor was known as Weaver's Opera House. Later he gave up this venture and embarked in the insurance business, which occupied his time until his retirement.

He held many positions of trust: member of the Board of Directors of the Nokomis National Bank, member of the School Board for eighteen years, Township Supervisor, Town Clerk and Highway Commissioner. He was also a member of the A. F. & A. M. Lodge No. 456, and, too, a member of the G. A. R. Post No. 236 of which he was commander for many years.

On one of his farms sixty acres lying within the city limits he built a beautiful home which is now the Memorial Park House. The High School too is built on these acres and the Memorial Park occupies much of this place.

The marked characteristics of Mr. and Mrs. Weaver were their kindness and generosity to those less fortunate than themselves. Mrs. Weaver passed away March 22, 1911, and Mr. Weaver on June 5, 1924.

★ ★ ★ ★ THE JOHN WOLTMANN FAMILY

Mr. John Woltmann came with his parents from Germany in June, 1868. He was married to Miss Minnie Nantkes in 1885. They were the parents of five children: Arnold, Jesse, Louis, Carl, and Lillian. His first venture in business was in company with G. Eekhoff in 1882. This store was at the corner of State and Pine Streets.

Mr. Eekhoff left the store later, moving to Iowa, and Garrelt Brakenhoff became the new partner. Mr. Woltmann's sister, Mrs. Antje Eekhoff, was an assistant in the store

and was wide and favorably known. To many she was known as "Tante Antje." This firm was incorporated in 1907 as "The J. Woltmann Co." and continued in business until 1952 when the corporation was dissolved after over seventy years in business in Nokomis. Mr. Woltmann passed away in 1941 and Mrs. Woltmann in 1938. Mr. Woltmann was a stockholder and director of the old Nokomis National Bank, Mayor of the city for several terms, member of the City Council for years, member of the Nokomis Public School Board, and of the Trinity Lutheran Church, of which he was one of the founders. A good man, a faithful, honest citizen, and a true friend.

★ ★ ★ ★ YACKLE FAMILIES

Frank and Tony Yackle came with their parents to America in 1865 from Baden, Germany, their native country, when the boys were very young. They grew up and attended school in Hillsboro, Ill., where Frank became a cobbler and shoe merchant, and Tony became a blacksmith. Frank married Katherine Huber, and Tony married Lena Luddeke. In 1889 Tony and his family moved to Nokomis where he entered the employ of F. J. Pannwitt as a blacksmith and later owned his own shop on E. Front St. He died in 1912. His widow and daughter live in Nokomis where Stella taught in the public schools for many years. Frank and his family came to Nokomis in 1891 and he opened a shoe shop where he sold and repaired shoes until a short time before his death in 1945. He served as a commissioner and mayor of Nokomis. Mrs. Frank Yackle passed away in 1937. Their son Carl, a retired mail clerk, resides in Mattoon; the older daughter, Florence Thoma, lives in Watertown, Wisconsin; the younger daughter, Viola Ramsey, lives in Moline, Ill.

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"Garrelt Brakenhoff bought an interest in a store in Nokomis. The new firm will be Woltmann & Brakenhoff." 1881

"Hon. John Carstens left for Springfield for the convening of the State Legislature - Jan., 1889."



JOHN PIER, SR.

PIER FAMILY

Mr. John Pier, Sr. was the son of Joe and Mary Hoppe Pier who came to Nokomis from Mascoutah in 1880. His wife was the daughter of Francis and Mary Gosner Beeler. She was born in Greenville, Ill., and came to Nokomis in 1869.

Mr. Pier was born in 1865 at Damainsville, Ill., and came with his parents to a farm near Nokomis. He was employed for a time as a carpenter in St. Louis. He was married to Miss Mary Beeler in 1888 and they lived on a farm until 1903 when they moved into Nokomis. He passed away in 1936 and Mrs. Pier in 1955. Their family numbered four: Charles, John, Jr., Emma, and Frank.

Charles, now deceased, married Miss Lula Barker in 1911. Their children are Mildred, Charles, Jr., Paul D. and Ralph now deceased. John, Jr. married Miss Berniece Godown in 1917. They have no family. Frank married Miss Helen Charnisky in 1937. They have no children. Miss Emma lives with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pier. There are several great grand children: Charles R. Pier, Dawn Starr Pier, Richard, Micheal, and Sandia Lou Girard. Sandia Girard and Dawn Starr Pier are not now living. There is a great great grandson, Kessler Joe Pier.

PIER COAL CO. 1895 - 1956

In 1895 Mr. John Pier, Sr. opened a place of business as a retailer and shipper of hay; in 1903 he bought the Gardner Stokes Coal business and added a stock of brick and tile. He purchased the Bentz Elevator in 1906 which he sold later to Henry J. Nobbe in 1911. For a time he bought and shipped pears and apples with the Simon Lerner Com. Co.

Mr. Pier was a civic minded man, building many homes for sale or rent. He has operated the coal business at the present location for 46 years, the oldest firm in Nokomis today. It is conducted by John, Jr., Miss Emma, and Frank and is known as The Pier Coal Co. Their success may well be attributed to careful attention to business and to reliability.

Mr. Pier was a member of the City Council at the time the first pavements were laid, and for a number of terms he was Alderman for Wards No. 2 and 3.

Frank and John, Jr., are members of the Nokomis Fire Department and of the American Legion. John served in World War I and Frank in World War II. Miss Emma belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary and to the Business and Professional Woman's Club.

The building, which burned on the Pier Company's present location, was known as Culp's Coffin and Wagon Factory.

THE VALLEY OF THE MOON

Centennial Pageant

Under the auspices of the Nokomis Centennial Committee

General Manager, Scenes and Action — LaRue Hugener

Narration — Anita Stanley

Welcome:

By the Princess and her Indian maidens.

Prologue: VOICE OF THE MIGHTY WEST-WIND

By the narrator alone.

Scene One: THIS IS THE VALLEY

This scene depicts the land which is now our town as it was in the 1830's.

Scene Two: THE FIRST SETTLERS

This scene pictures the arrival of the first settlers.

Scene Three: AUDUBON 1836

This scene introduces Anasa Berry by whom the town was named.

Scene Four: DANCING—THE DREAM OF THE ILLINOKOS

This scene portrays the mythical tribe to whom Nokomis belonged.

Scene Five: TOGETHER IN FAITH

This scene delineates the Sabbath and the first wedding in the valley.

Scene Six: DANCING—OAK GROVE

This scene pictures a social gathering at the first school house.

Scene Seven: COMING OF THE IRON HORSE

This scene depicts the completion of the railroad through the valley and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln.

Scene Eight: SO WE TOOK THE NAME NOKOMIS

This scene shows the members of the town council gathered in the city park for their meeting at which the town becomes incorporated and officially adopts the name Nokomis.

Scene Nine: FOR FREEDOM'S CAUSE

This scene shows the effect of the Civil War on the town. Also the sympathetic heart of its citizens toward an oppressed people. This features negro spirituals.

Scene Ten: DANCING—SATURDAY NIGHT

This scene pictures the city park in the gay 90's. It features a band concert and The Hesitation Waltz.

Scene Eleven: TURNING OF THE CENTURY

This scene describes the turn of the century. It introduces various industries and the excitement caused by the first automobile.

Scene Twelve: DANCING—BLACK ROCK SURFACED

This scene delineates the boom to Nokomis with the coming of the coal mines. It introduces the people of many nationalities who now make up the town and features some of their folk dances.

Scene Thirteen: THESE ARE OUR CHILDREN

This scene portrays the various types of professional people produced by the heterogeneous Illinokos. It features baseball.

Scene Fourteen: OVER THERE

This scene shows the effect of World War I on the Nokomis Community. It features songs of that era.

Scene Fifteen: DANCING—CRESTING THE WAVE

This scene portrays Nokomis at its most prosperous best. It features entertainment as we knew it at the city park during the roaring 20's.

Scene Sixteen: THE SAD SAD DAYS

This scene depicts the depression. The struggle of the town for survival. World War II. Tribute is paid to all men and women who served in the armed forces and a salute is fired in honor of those who gave their lives for the cause of freedom.

Scene Seventeen: HOPE OF SURVIVAL

This scene tells of post war prosperity. It tells of new industries. It features roller skating.

Scene Eighteen: THE STAFF OF LIFE

This scene pays tribute to the farmers of the community and features the TRAIL RIDERS.

Epilogue: DANCING—

This brings in the entire cast and features the Princess.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOSEPH WM. WILD, (March 6, 1856--June 10, 1924)

IDA OHLMAN WILD, (May 9, 1865--July 29, 1952)

IONE ELIZABETH WILD, (Feb. 25, 1890--Sept. 16, 1954)

---OLIVIA WILD McMANUS



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL NOKOMIS

"Personal success, business success, built upon materialism alone, are empty shells concealing disappointment, saddened lives.

Cast your bread upon the waters and it will come back in abundance."

GEORGE ROBERT WHITE



Christmas Parade Sponsored By Nokomis Chamber of Commerce

NOKOMIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Nokomis Chamber of Commerce, formerly known as the Nokomis Merchants' Association was organized on June 19, 1924.

The first officers of the Association were Edwin Pannwitt, president; Alvin Henkel, secretary; and George Schaper, treasurer.

Previously, the merchants had organized under various names, only to fail, but the organization in 1924, succeeding the Nokomis Booster Club, served in the capacity of a Chamber of Commerce until the name was changed officially in May, 1952.

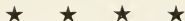
During the years this organization has worked for the benefit of the community and has been active in supporting all projects beneficial to the people of Nokomis and its farming territory.

Among the benefits resulting have been a fine cooperation of the merchants and the farmers in joining in Saturday evening entertainments, picnics, annual Farmers Institute meetings, etc.

They were also active in behalf of the coal mining industry, in organizing the new bank, bringing in various factories which created new jobs, purchasing a Memorial Park, and for years sponsoring an annual Farm Bureau-Merchants picnic.

They subscribed to stock in Nokomis New Industries to furnish capital to establish new industries.

Present officers are Howard Bell, president; Fred Kettelkamp, vice president; Leslie Sperry, treasurer; and George Sale, secretary.



"Nokomis Nat'l Bank received from U. S. mint by express 1,000 silver dollars of 1879 vintage."

"New sidewalk leading to the cemetery completed." May, 1880.

"Street sprinkler on the job." June, 1880.

"Since our night police has been discharged the tramp trampeth to the calaboose and retireth early." March, 1879.

ANN'S FASHION SHOPPE

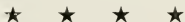
Miss Ann Hueschen will celebrate being in business in Nokomis 27 years this fall. With only a couple hundred dollars, Ann started a Millinery and Novelty Shop where the Nokomis Bakery is now located. Mrs. Wm. Blaeuer of Litchfield had the back as a beauty shop and Miss Hueschen used the front for her business. This arrangement was started Oct. 29, 1929. The following March, Mrs. Blaeuer sold her interest to Ann's sister, Mrs. Luella Buechenschuetz who operated the beauty shop until June, 1934, when she quit business.

In 1936 Miss Hueschen moved to the Kerr Building, where the V. F. W. is located; here Ann did business for 10 years; then she moved to her own building and the business name was changed to ANN'S FASHION SHOPPE.

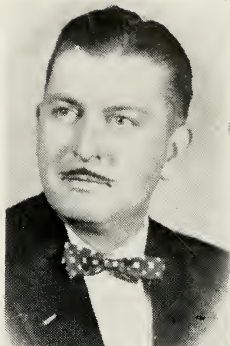
In 1945 Miss Hueschen purchased the building that is now used for her store from Mrs. Anna Shannon. These lots, 11 & 12, blk. 32, were laid out over 120 years ago and originally sold for \$50.00. Ann remodeled the store and the apartment above where she lives.

From the modest beginning in 1929, Ann went through the depression of three bank failures in Nokomis, building the business, such as she is enjoying today, by handling nationally advertised merchandise. Her motto is "Exclusive but not Expensive." Mrs. Ann Kapilla and Mrs. Alma Pereboom assist her in the store and Joann Williams on Saturdays.

Miss Hueschen is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dietrich Hueschen, pioneers of this community. Ann has always been active in church work, having been organist at Trinity Lutheran Church for 25 years and belonging to the Ladies' Aid and The Altar Guild. Miss Hueschen is a charter member of the Nokomis B. & P. W. and the Chamber of Commerce. She is always ready to help in any civic enterprise that might come up for the benefit of the community.



City directory February, 1889 - Nokomis had 75 business firms; 1,100 population.



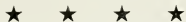
Howard

Bell

BELL'S JEWELRY

Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. Bell came to Nokomis from Charleston, Ill., ten years ago, when Mr. Bell opened one of the most complete jewelry stores in Central Illinois.

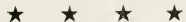
Mr. Bell is a graduate gemologist and is an authority on diamonds. Since coming to Nokomis, Howard has taken a very active part in all civic affairs. At present, he heads the Nokomis Chamber of Commerce.



JOE DUEZ SHOE REPAIR SHOP

Joe Duez Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Duez, Sr., natives of Belgium, was born in Patton, Penn.; he worked in the coal mines from 1917 - 21 before learning the shoe repair trade from his brother. He in turn taught another brother while in a shop in Pana.

In 1944 Mr. Duez bought his present location from Ed. Wilson, who had a barber shop there. He lives in Witt and commutes to Nokomis each day. This year, along with the repair work, he has put in a line of men's and boys' dress and work shoes.



"The Nokomis Coal Mining Company licensed by the Secretary of State - Dec., 1887 D. H. Zepp, Geo. Schaper, N. Singer, Alf Griffin, E. G. Greenman, and L. M. Hartsock were promoters."

"Social Club issued 100 invitations to a grand ball at the Armory Hall." (1878)



BERNS BROS. CONCRETE PRODUCTS

The Berns Bros. Concrete Products is one of the oldest businesses in our community, as Frank N. Berns, cousin of Nick Berns, father of the Berns brothers, bought the lots on which the business is located today, back in 1911, and the following year started the block and tile business.

Monroe and Frank J. Berns, after getting out of Service, bought this business in Mar., 1946. Both boys had been in the Army, Monroe being released in Sept., 1945, and Frank the following January.

In 1950 the brothers expanded their business, purchasing an automatic block machine; this was a big improvement as it turns out 180 blocks an hour. In the fall of 1951 and the spring of '52, Monroe and Frank again decided to become more modern and added a Redi-mix plant. This machine mixes the concrete at their place of business, and it is then trucked to the place where it is used.

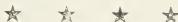
The summer of 1953 they again took a step forward in progress by replacing their old building with a modern block, fireproof building which measures 60 x 70 ft. When the Berns brothers remodeled, an old steam

engine, that had been used over 40 years before, was pulled out and was left standing at the far end of the lot.

In 1955 the latest electronic block and tile making equipment was added. This machine has a capacity of producing more than 500 units per hour. At date of purchase there were only 17 other machines of this kind in the United States and Canada.

This business has grown and expanded until at present the boys deal in everything that is made of concrete, such as, drain tile, septic tanks, building blocks, and sand, gravel and cement. The business takes in a radius of more than 75 miles. Berns brothers' first big block construction was the L. E. Nantkes building on N. Spruce in Nokomis in 1950.

Monroe was born on a farm near Oconee, but came at the early age of six months, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Berns, when they moved to a farm a mile and a half south of Nokomis. Here was the birthplace of his brother, Frank. Monroe married Miss Merle Wittnam of this farming community and they are the parents of one daughter, Eileen. Frank married Miss Pauline Kirkpatrick, and they have two children: daughter, Janet Sue, and son, Bobbie Joe.



"I. O. O. F. & Masonic Halls damaged by cyclone, May, 1880."

"Pay Car - January, 1881."



"Six-button white kid gloves for \$1.00."

"Raspberry Festival at Weaver's Hall, June 15, 1880 - 25c admission."



Henry J.
Bender

HENRY J. BENDER

Henry J. Bender, in business in Nokomis 65 years, was born in St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 4, 1864; he came to Nokomis in 1875 with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Bender who started a bakery and restaurant in a frame building where Ann's Fashion Shoppe is now located. He assisted his father in business for several years.

In 1888 Mr. Bender and the late John Hukill opened a grocery and dry goods store. A year later he became manager of the Planters Hay Compress Co., which he held for several years.

Mr. Bender then formed partnership with the late Nick Bentz in the elevator and grain business; after four years he purchased Mr. Bentz's interest and continued to operate alone until 1906 when he sold the elevator to the late H. J. Nobbe.

In 1906 Mr. Bender opened a coal yard, in the same location, and confined his business to retailing coal exclusively until he sold the business in 1948 to the Nokomis Coal Co. and retired from active business. His office, both for elevator and coal business, was originally the first railroad depot in Nokomis.

H. J. Bender was a director of the Nokomis National Bank for 10 years, and a director of the Nokomis Building and Loan Association the same number of years, serving as president four years. He retired due to failing health.

Mr. Bender was an active member of St. Louis Catholic Church and a charter member of the Knights of Columbus Council 2189.

In 1893 Mr. Bender and Miss Mollie Kroeger were united in marriage and their entire married life was spent in Nokomis until his death June 1, 1952, and her death,

Mar. 15, 1956, both at the age of 88. Their one daughter, Genevieve, with her husband, Mr. Coen, resides in Nokomis.

★ ★ ★ ★ QUALITY CLEANERS

The history of the Quality Dry Cleaners dates back to the early 20's, when Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Powley began this business where the Illini Candy Factory is now located. In 1926 R. P. Keele bought the business from the Powleys, and his brother, Roy E. Keele, took over the management for him. George Moeller, who had been employed by the Powleys, continued to work with Roy Keele until 1937, when he went into business for himself. In 1931, Harold Altom was employed and has been with the firm for the past 25 years. Mrs. Altom joined the firm in 1938 and is also active in the business to date. George Hill became another member of "the family" in 1932. He operates his own truck to give delivery service to an area of approximately 20 miles radius. Roy Keele's two sons, Carl and Jimmie, both having grown up around the dry cleaning business, worked part time during their high school years, Carl beginning in 1940 and Jimmie in 1944. Upon graduating they both entered the Service, Carl into the Navy and Jimmie into the Coast Guard.

In 1927 Mr. Keele started selling and servicing radios. As time progressed and television came into the picture, he added a new subject to his field of interest. He began selling and servicing television in 1950.

The Day-Upstone building was bought in 1945 from the Day estate and the business was moved to that building, the present location.

February 1, 1956, Roy Keele and his two sons, Carl and Jim, bought the dry cleaning establishment from R. P. Keele and now operate it in conjunction with the Television Sales and Service which Roy Keele started in 1950. They have the agencies for RCA Victor and Sylvania Television and Radios and also operate a complete service department.

★ ★ ★ ★

"Nokomis Ladies' Cornet band gave one of their popular balls Wednesday, January 19, 1987."



Your Servant
of the Century.

Congratulations

TO NOKOMIS ON HER

Centennial Anniversary

We're proud to have played a part in the city's progress, furnishing dependable Low Cost Electricity for nearly half of this Century.

MORE POWER TO AND FOR YOU!

Reddy is ready now—with plenty

Reddy will keep AHEAD for the future

Central Illinois Public Service Company

Low Cost Essential Service to Industry, Business, Farm and Home.

JOHNSON AUTO CO.

The Johnson Auto Co. is one of the oldest businesses in Nokomis, being owned and operated by Fred B. Johnson and son, Mervin. Fred B. Johnson was born on a farm north of Mt. Olive, April 17, 1896. After going through country schools and working on the farm for several years, he attended The Berry Auto School in St. Louis. After graduating, Fred returned to Mt. Olive and in rapid succession was a taxi-cab driver, worker on Wabash railroad, and garage employee of the Brubaker Auto Co., at Staunton.

In 1916 Fred came to Nokomis and worked on Henry Wolters' farm for six months. Then he was employed in the garage operated by Ray W. Snedeker and owned by A. O. Kettelkamp.

On January 25, 1918, Fred married Miss Christina Moos, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Moos, pioneers of Nokomis community. They have two children, Mervin E. and Adeline Richardson. Fred served his country in World War I and Mervin saw action in World War II.

Fred B. liked this community, and, after the Armistice in 1919, he came back to No-

komis and started in the garage business, with his brother, Milo. Their trade name was Johnson Bros., and they were first located in the Kerr Bldg. At this time they secured their first new car franchise, the Buick. The first Buick sold by this firm was to Thomas Wolters. It was a 5 passenger touring car which sold for two thousand dollars.

June, 1920, the brothers purchased and moved to the garage building still housing the Johnson Auto Co. Six years later they secured the fast growing small car, the Chevrolet franchise. Oct. 1, 1938, Milo sold his half interest, and Fred B. operated as an individual until Jan., 1947, when his son, Mervin, purchased half interest. This is the status of the Johnson Auto Co. today.

There are 19 employees working for the Johnson Auto Co. Elmer Wilson, Fred R. Kleinik, and Julius Saatkamp have been with the Johnson Co. since the beginning.

Mr. Johnson is appreciative of the Nokomis community for supporting this thriving enterprise from its humble beginning. He has always used the slogan: "When Better Cars Are Built -- Buick Will Build Them."



**Felix
Ronchetti**

RONCHETTI AGENCY

Felix Ronchetti, one of our oldest businessmen, has been in the beer distributing business for 50 years, starting in Benld back in 1906, with a horse and wagon. In 1916 he came to Nokomis and has continued this business ever since. His brother, John, was in partnership with him until he moved to South Bend, Ind., and later passed away.

In the 20's when the country was on prohibition, Mr. Ronchetti continued the distribution of soft drinks. Anheuser Busch even handled tea and coffee.

Ten years ago his son, Frank, was discharged from Service and went into partnership with his dad. Frank lives in Mattoon and handles the east part of the state. He is in the Army Reserves and commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel.

The Ronchetti Distributing Co. operates the territory from Litchfield east to the Indiana line and has the distributing rights for the famous Budweiser and fast growing popular Busch Bavarian Beers; the R. & R. Distributing Co., Inc. has the distributing agency for Stag and G. B. Beers of St. Louis. The last mentioned is in Paris, Ill. From a horse and wagon, Mr. Ronchetti has come a long way until now he operates 5 branches.

Mr. Ronchetti also branched out into other business. In 1932 he started the Felix Ronchetti Insurance Co. and deals in real estate. In fact, he is one of the larger property holders in Nokomis. Mrs. Hugh Keller is office manager and his brother-in-law, John Jones, operates the trucks.

Mr. Ronchetti married Miss Josephine Gaudio of Benld and they are the parents of a son, Frank (previously mentioned), and a daughter, Madeline, wife of Kenneth Buel. Mr. Buel formerly lived in Nokomis, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Buel. For the past 30 years he has been assistant manager of the Union Electric Co. in Collinsville. For a number of years Mrs. Buel taught English at the local high school.

★ ★ ★ ★ **THE CANDY KITCHEN**

The Candy Kitchen had its beginning in Nokomis when Geo. and Phillip Koucheveris and Geo. Ellis opened this popular place, on the corner of S. Pine and W. State, in April, 1919. Two years later, Mr. Ellis sold his interest to the brothers. In May, 1934, Joe Viola and Jenö Collebrusco bought the interest of the Koucheveris brothers, who had, in the meantime, purchased a candy kitchen in Taylorville.

In 1938 Mr. Viola and Mr. Collebrusco purchased the building next to the theatre, from the Snell estate; ten years later, they remodeled the building making it one of the nicest looking places on State Street, and moved into it from the old stand which had been known as the Candy Kitchen for 29 years. They have since put in air conditioning, making it more pleasant for their customers. The Candy Kitchen makes home made ice cream, candy, and caramel apples; they also sell light accessories.

Joe and his sister, Mary (Viola) Collebrusco, started working in the Candy Kitchen from the beginning, in 1919. Jenö, of Taylorville, bought interest in the Candy Kitchen in 1928, and Lucille (Engelman) Viola has been connected with the firm since her marriage to Joe, April 29, 1934.

Joe and Lucille Viola are the parents of a daughter, Sherrie Lynn, and Jenö and Mary Collebrusco are the parents of a daughter, Jean Ann.

The Violas and Collebruscos have always been civic minded citizens, playing leading rolls, in all activities that have been beneficial to Nokomis and the surrounding community. For the past thirty-five years their names have been etched in making The Century of Progress in Nokomis.

HIRSCH ANNIVERSARY

The Twenty-Sixth Anniversary of the founding of P. N. Hirsch & Company, whose local department store is located at 100 West State Street, will be celebrated beginning this year with a special sales event in May.

The Hirsch organization now operates a total of 54 stores in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Alabama and Arkansas and recently acquired their own general office and warehouse building in St. Louis, Mo.

The company started in business in 1930 at Jonesboro, Ill. In 1931 their first store was moved to Anna, Illinois, and shortly thereafter a second store was opened in Metropolis, Illinois. The steady, if not spectacular, growth and expansion of the chain of P. N. Hirsch & Company stores in the twenty-six years is considered outstanding in the retail merchandising field.

Credit for its progress is given by the Hirsch Company to public acceptance of the policy it has consistently followed. That is "to offer the best possible quality merchandise at the lowest possible price and to guarantee complete customer satisfaction through a liberal exchange and refund policy."

The local P. N. Hirsch & Company store was acquired by the company in 1950 from Albert Smith and is managed by Norman Bean. He and his family live in Nokomis and have taken an active part in all civic affairs of the community. They and The P. N. Hirsch & Company extend the heartiest Welcome to all at the Nokomis Centennial celebration.

★ ★ ★ ★ **EDGECOMBE HATCHERY, INC.**

Robert B. and Oliver started up the Edgecombe Bros. Hatchery, Sept. 1, 1953, in the Woltmann Building, which is a landmark in Nokomis.

This business handles a full line of Hon-egger feeds, Dr. Salisbury remedies, and equipment, chicken-houses, brooders, feeders, etc. They are the authorized Honegger Associate Hatchery Dealers for this community. Edgecombe Brothers pride themselves on getting breeding stock every year and selling only FIRST GENERATION chicks.

July 1, 1954, Robert and Oliver Edgecombe incorporated into the Edgecombe

Hatchery, Inc., which has been run successfully under the same management ever since.

★ ★ ★ ★ **NOKOMIS BOWLING LANES** **121 S. Spruce St.**

Bowling, the Nation's No. 1 recreation, was first operated at the above location in Nokomis some 30 years ago by Jeff Chlebus, who later sold to Milo J. Johnson.

A year ago Howell C. Bricker leased the alleys from Armand Tosetti. He has successfully managed this sport through the past season by putting in full time, thus giving the patrons the advantage of proper supervision.

There have been 8 men's teams scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights and 8 women's teams on Wednesday with four teams on Friday night; this schedule left Saturday and Sunday open for inter-city bowling. The Nokomis Bowling Lanes, under the management of Mr. Bricker, furnish a clean recreation for the entire family.

Howell, the son of the late U. S. Bricker and Hattie Bricker of Nokomis, was born at Lovington, Ill., and moved, with his parents, to Nokomis about 50 years ago where he worked in the local mines until their closing. He married Miss Emily Morrison of this city. They are the parents of two sons, Alvin and Keith, both of Nokomis.

★ ★ ★ ★ **KENNEDY'S ROLLER RINK**

This popular amusement place, just east of town, is owned by Alvinah and George Kennedy. Good, clean fun is always maintained. For the convenience of the customers, a snack bar adds to the popularity. The Kennedys were farmers near Decatur before coming to Nokomis in 1946. They first purchased a roller rink tent; then the following spring the present permanent rink was constructed. The parking facilities are excellent for crowds.

Mrs. Kennedy was one of eight children of Rev. and Mrs. Bechtel of Decatur. The Kennedys have three children: George Jr., Gerald, and Janet, wife of Fred Bowers.

"For Popular Entertainment - Roller Skate".

KELLER'S IMPLEMENT CO.

115 E. Front St.

Nokomis, Ill.

The Allis Chalmers farm equipment franchise for this community was taken by A. W. Collins in 1944. In December, 1952, Chuck Johnson and Mr. Collins sold the agency to Hugh Keller, and the firm is now known as the Keller Implement Co.

Mr. Keller, a son of the large family of Mr. and Mrs. Leo H. Keller, Sr., was born on his father's farm about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Nokomis.

Hugh has the advantage of knowing the farmers' machinery needs from his practical experience gained on the farm and from his work with an implement dealer before buying his own business. Farmers of this area are familiar with the Allis Chalmers equipment and the friendly and courteous service extended to them at the Keller Implement Co.

Mr. Keller married Miss Josephine Lenzi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lenzi, Sr., of Nokomis. She has employment with the Ronchetti Insurance Co.

MELIN-CHARNISKY INSURANCE AGENCY

The Melin-Charnisky Insurance Agency, 111 S. Spruce St., was started Jan. 2, 1956, when these gentlemen bought the insurance business from Luther Battles.

This reliable agency handles a complete line of Fire, Auto, Casualty, Bonds, Life, and Health and Accident policies. The office is managed by Mrs. Janice Charnisky.

Nels Melin was born in Middleton, Ill., coming to Nokomis with his parents in 1909. He married Miss Ethel Wilson of Irving and has a son, Julbert, and a daughter, Brenda.

Michael Charnisky is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Charnisky of Coalton, married Miss Janice McConiga of Nokomis. They are the parents of a daughter, Jan Michelle.

Both are Navy men, Melin seeing action in World War I and Charnisky in World War II. Nels is a rural carrier and Mike a city mail-carrier of the local Post Office. They are very appreciative of the fine response they have received in so short a time in business, and extend a hearty "Welcome" to the Nokomis Centennial.

LOUIS E. MARLEY — REAL ESTATE

Starting at the art of "crying sales" when a young man, Col. Louis E. Marley graduated in the late thirties as a Real Estate Broker. His office is located at 108 S. Spruce St., Nokomis. He has advertised: "IF IT'S ON EARTH, I CAN SELL IT."

Mr. Marley represents the Northwestern Ins. Co. of Peoria, The Prudential, and The Franklin Insurance Companies out of Springfield, in regard to farm loans - for the convenience of his many customers.

Louis, the son of Mrs. Ed Marley (his father having passed away a number of years ago), was born on the Marley Homestead, 4 miles southeast of town, in Audubon Twp. on April 26, 1903. Mr. Marley married Miss Catherine Kelley, well known registered nurse of Montgomery Co. At present she helps in the office.

Mr. and Mrs. Marley express their appreciation for the courteous treatment they have received since being in business here.

★ ★ ★ ★ McDAVID MOTOR, INC.

The history of McDavid Motor, Inc. in Nokomis dates back to 1917, when the McDavid cousins of Hillsboro bought the garage business from D. E. Leach. This firm was located where the Kettelkamp Implement Co. is now located. The McDavid Motor Co. was owned by C. L., E. T., and J. K. McDavid. A. B. McDavid was the first general manager. Later Chas. A. Newport managed the firm.

In 1922 they built at the present location and R. L. Kessinger managed the business until 1932 when G. D. Robbins became the manager until his untimely death in Aug., 1953.

In 1937 the business was incorporated as The McDavid Motor, Inc. G. D. Robbins and W. H. Bauer were stock holders. Mar., 1953, Geo. V. Spengel, Carl Wright and Carl Wunderlich bought shares in the firm.

A body shop was built in 1952 and last fall the "Big M" Mercury franchise was added. The new attractive colored cars of today will never be so popular as the old Model T., when we had such songs written as "Get Out and Get Under"

KROGER STORE

The Nokomis Kroger Store, on the corner of W. State and Pine Streets, was started in 1922, at the same location that now houses the store. At that time they shared the east half with the C. I. P. S. Company. More than fifty years ago, the Nokomis Post Office was located in the east room of the building.

The first manager was Wesley Hardy. He was there only a short time until Otto Johnson became the store manager. Mr. Johnson served in this capacity until January 4, 1941, putting in almost twenty years of service. He owns the building.

Victor Micklautz, the present manager, started working for Kroger's in 1927 when still going to high school. In 1931 he became a regular clerk and ten years later, the store manager.

The Kroger Store is a big organization, having at present in the Nokomis store, eleven employees, each well suited for his or her position. This makes it one of the finer stores of the community. In 1939 the Kroger Co. installed a self service system which was the first of its kind in the community. Now many grocery stores have this "help yourself" plan.

Victor Micklautz married Miss Alice Middleton of Nokomis in 1936 and they have two children: a son, Victor Lynn, a junior at the local high school and a daughter, Nancy, in grade school.

Mr. and Mrs. Micklautz and family are active members in the St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He is a member of the Nokomis Unit School Board, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and of the Nokomis Lions Club. This year, he received a merit of distinction from the Kroger Co., for being the outstanding civic minded manager of this district. Vic is always willing to give a hand in all affairs that are for the betterment of Nokomis and surrounding trading area.

★ ★ ★ ★ NOKOMIS FLOWER SHOP

September 11, 1946, Ruby and Josephine Elliott of Hillsboro opened the Nokomis Flower Shop, where the Candy Kitchen is now located. The place was managed by

Fern Wolters, who has been with the Hillsboro Greenhouse for years. She excels in cross pollination. The "mums" that are grown in Hillsboro are of the excellent variety comparable only to those seen in Shaw's Garden, St. Louis.

In 1948 Mrs. Elliott sold the Nokomis Flower Shop to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dunn. When Mr. Dunn died in 1952, the interest was sold to William Sattgast and his son-in-law, Howard Whitten of Hillsboro, the present owners.

Mrs. Kenneth Smalley was the first manager of the Flower Shop until July, 1949, when Mrs. Lois Peters took over, assisted by the able help of Mrs. Amber Hill. In July, 1954, Mrs. Peters was forced to quit due to ill health. Mrs. Henry Stanley is the present manager.

The Nokomis Flower Shop belongs to the Telegraph Delivery Service for the convenience of out-of-town customers.

★ ★ ★ ★ LAYER'S STORE

The building and business of the present Layer's Store were built and started by Day and Upstone. In 1876 Mr. George Schaper started working for Day and Upstone and in 1895 he bought the business. Mr. Schaper, along with his two sons, Fred and Edward, ran the store until his death in 1945. In 1946 the store was sold to Glenn E. Johnson who operated it until August 1, 1953, when he sold out to Paul Layer.

The store is now called Layer's Store and is run by Paul and Marilyn Layer. Mrs. Layer was formerly Marilyn Bauman, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Fred Bauman; she formerly worked at the Rexall Drug Store. She and Paul were married on Sunday, December 27, 1953.

They have Sherwin-Williams paint in the store along with gifts and sundries. They also have cameras and camera supplies.

Paul has lately added Radio and Television Service and Repair to the store and hopes to have well known Television sets to sell.

You are always welcome at Layer's Store, 104 W. State Street or call them for delivery - phone 171.

KEMPTON REXALL DRUGS

1891 — 1956

A. J. Schroeder—Pharmacists—J. E. Siegrist

The Kempton Rexall Drug Store had its beginning in 1891, under the firm name of Preston & Kempton, in the now K. & K. Meat Market Bldg., 100 E. State St. Three years later, Mr. Kempton bought out Mr. Preston's interest and the firm was known as the C. H. Kempton Drug Co. In 1888 Mr. Kempton sold to a Nokomis physician, Dr. P. L. Freeland, who evidently moved the store to 117-19 W. State, now occupied by Ann Hueschen and the Layel-Arnold Insurance Agency, which had been built in 1893.

After Mr. Kempton sold, he was engaged in the poultry business at Morrisonville, Ill. After a short stay, he again purchased a drug store in La Grange, Ill. In 1900 Mr. Kempton returned to Nokomis and bought back the drug store from Dr. Freeland. Due to the Nokomis Big Fire, the store did business on the corner of the alley at 110 E. State St. The drug store was then moved to the building now occupied by the Nokomis Gas & Electric Co., owned by Alf Griffin, later by John Ronchetti. In 1921 the present building was purchased, at 108 W. State St., which had been known as the Russell Mercantile Co.

In 1918 A. J. Schroeder accepted a position as company weighman for the Nokomis West Mine; he and his family moved here from Mt. Olive. In Dec. of that year he was offered the position as pharmacist and assistant manager of the Kempton Drug Co.

Mr. Schroeder was a true Rexallite from the founding by Louis K. Liggett, who was his personal friend, more than 50 years ago. "A. J." realized the neglect of a necessary drug and medicine line in our town. From a meager beginning of purchases from Rexall in 1918, and with the cooperation of clerks and helpers, a Rexall business in Nokomis and community excels cities with population of 50,000 and more. Rexall's slogan, "GOOD HEALTH TO ALL — FROM REXALL," has been the store's slogan; and for the past 20 years the Nokomis store has been on Rexall's International Honor Roll and one of the top leaders in purchases in our state.

Jan., 1925, A. J. Schroeder became a partner of the firm and in Nov. of the same year Mr. Kempton passed away, leaving the care of his widow to Mr. Schroeder and his wife, who took care of her every need, and the operation of the drug store as a partnership until her death.

A. J. Schroeder then assumed complete ownership of the drug firm, now known as the "Kempton Rexall Drugs." The original name, Kempton, has been maintained from the beginning until the present.

In 1953, J. E. Siegrist was taken in as a partner and manager. W. P. Gilbert has been with the firm 30 years; Emma Nantkes 24; J. E. Siegrist 13 years; and Wm. Bowers and Jennie Compton, three and two years respectively.

★ ★ ★ ★ KELLER'S MARKET

The Keller Market (formerly the Clover Farm Store operated by Bennie Bernardini until his death Jan., 1954) is now owned and operated by Mrs. Joy Keller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Isbell of Charleston, Ill., former Nokomis residents. Joy married Paul Keller of this community who farms north of Nokomis. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keller, Nokomis H. S. alumni, are the parents of three children: Kay, Carol Jean, and Paul, Jr.

Mrs. Keller features home killed meats and a full line of quality groceries.

★ ★ ★ ★ SIDES LAUNDRY

In 1949 Jim Vancil started a new business in Nokomis, the housewife's dream, "Taking the Blue out of Monday". February, 1952, Mr. Vancil sold his laundry to Mr. and Mrs. Tony Mazurier, who, in turn, sold to Homer Sides of Coalton, October 1, 1953.

The Sides' Laundry do all their washing and drying by automatic washers and dryers, and they do finishing and flat ironing as well as dyeing and tinting of all kinds. Any material that is fragile is given personal attention.

Mr. Sides is very appreciative of the fine response and hopes to serve the Nokomis community for many years to come.

★ ★ ★ ★

"A large crowd watched the balloon ascension Noember, 1878."

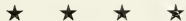
TOSETTI'S GROCERY STORE

A very popular grocery store, on the North Side, is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Primo Tosetti.

Primo is one of a family of eleven children of Mr. and Mrs. Silvio Tosetti. The family moved to Nokomis when he was a child, from Ladd, Ill. His father worked in the coal mines in Ladd and Nokomis; here he was injured in 1924; four years later his wife, Gentile, started a grocery store at the present location.

Primo worked in the mines and factories of the cities, but decided his mother needed help in Nokomis. In 1942 he took over the store and since that time has made it one of the finer stores of the community. A self service dairy case and daily delivery are outstanding features.

Primo married Miss Nita Grimes and they have two children. Mr. Tosetti is an aggressive young business man and at present is a member of the Nokomis City Council. It is only natural that he is interested in the Nokomis Centennial celebration this year.

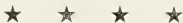


NOKOMIS IMPLEMENT COMPANY

The Nokomis Implement Company was formed in May, 1920, by Theo. H. and Henry A. Johnson, who purchased the business which was then John Deere from F. J. Pannwitt. The Johnson Brothers purchased the International Harvester contract from the Miller Bros. in 1923 who were then operating in the Joe Brenner place which is now the location of the Johnson Auto Used Car Building.

Nokomis Implement Co. sold both IH and John Deere Equipment for several years before selling the John Deere franchise to Julius Kettelkamp and since that time this Company has been the International Harvester dealer in Nokomis.

On February 1, 1948, the Nokomis Implement Co. and the IH franchise were purchased by J. E. "Dutch" Anderson and George Priddle who are now operating in the same location that the Nokomis Implement Co. was formed.



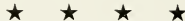
"Maple pest in 1884."

MOELLER'S MEN'S CLOTHING STORE

This is the history of 118 W. State St., Nokomis, Ill. At the present there is on this location a two story brick building that houses the Mollers—George, Violet, Georgie.

Many years ago there was a one story frame structure here occupied by Gus Weber, who ran a saloon, followed by Cotton Brenner and Joe Ernst. The old timers remember this saloon as badly in need of repairs where the dogs chased the cats right through without opening the doors. In 1912 this structure was torn down and the present building was erected by Wells and Brown who operated a Men's Furnishings on the first floor and rented the upstairs for offices. The Wells and Brown business prospered for a number of years. When the business was dissolved, the building was rented to Louis Schneider for a general clothing store followed by A. F. Zwinak. Later it was occupied by Jesse Robertson and son, Kenneth, as a hardware store. After this business came to an end, the building remained vacant for a number of years.

In 1937 George Moller bought the building from Ben Brown and has since been operating a Men's Ready-to-Wear store assisted by his wife, Violet, and son, George, who is a sophomore at the University of Illinois. The Moellers occupy the apartment on the second floor which they call home. This arrangement has made it especially handy for many frustrated mothers that need a last minute item as Junior is getting ready for the Prom. They have made many real friends through their business and civic efforts and are always behind the boy or girl who is "in there pitching."



"Hitching posts ordered removed from Main St. and placed around the park." 1881

"25 million chinch bugs passed over Nokomis going south on Wednesday, July 20, 1887. (who counted them?). Some people were grateful as the cloud covered the sun - it was a very hot day."

"Leonard Lease gave \$1,000 to Carthage College, 1887."

BARNSTABLE FEED & HATCHERY

Back in 1910 this business was born, when Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Sullivan started handling, in car lots, flour, bran, shorts, oats, and corn in a little building, 24x30, on S. Spruce St. In those days people bought flour in the bag of 50 or 100 lbs. or in a barrel. That was when nearly every housewife baked her own bread.

In 1912 young Clarence Barnstable started working for the Sullivans as a handyman driving a one-horse delivery wagon. This he did for 6 years; business flourished, but young Barney thought he'd try his hand in other fields, so he got a job at Mine No. 10. He worked only a week until the mine caught on fire and that influenced him to go into business for himself; he bought a half interest in the fast growing business, The Sullivan Feed Store.

In 1922 Roy Schaper bought the other half of the Sullivan store and the place was known as Barnstable & Schaper Feed Store. Business flourished, so in 1928 they decided to extend their interest to the hatching of chicks, which was fast becoming popular with farmers. They started with a 28,000 capacity incubator, which has now grown to a capacity of 400,000 and they are hatching not only baby chicks, but turkey poults, ducklings, and goslings, for which they have a market throughout the U.S.A. In 1933 Mr. Schaper took over the Pana firm and Mr. Barnstable became sole owner of the business in Nokomis, known as Barnstable Feed & Hatcheries. Much of the credit for the success of this firm has been the association of the faithful employment of Mrs. Nona Schnell, Phillip Stauder, Darrell Mindrup, son Clarence, and others.



Purina Makes 50 Millionth Ton Purina Chow.
Thanks to the Feeders in This Community for
Their Help.

Besides feeds, they have added several lines of different merchandise consisting of Ralston Purina; Checkerboard feed; Agrico fertilizer, in bags or bulk; rock phosphate; limestone; Salsbury and Purina sanitation products; and a full line of farmers' agricultural needs, used in our community.

In 1951 the Barnstables built a modern grain elevator on their farm located on the Nokomis-Fillmore blacktop road, and are buying and selling grain. On this farm is a 2 story brick home, where the Barnstables have sponsored many community picnics, with the help of local citizens and the Ansar Temple Shriners' Band of Springfield, of which Mr. Barnstable is a member. In the past, all profits of the Fourth of July picnic have been given for the benefit of the crippled children, Shriners' Hospital in St. Louis.

On the farm they raise turkeys, chickens, dairy cattle and hogs, all of which add to the management of a well established farm.

Mr. Barnstable married Miss Clara Klamer, of the South Fork community; they have a son, Clarence, Jr. who married Miss Martha Martin of Witt. They have a daughter, Barbara Bea. In 1954 Mr. Barnstable and son bought the Kerr building, which is available for a factory.

Barney has always been a BOOSTER for the Nokomis community; helping to open the West Mine, helping to establish The Add-A-Phase Co., and helping with the Bank and Ski factory are a few of his worthwhile efforts. Yes, Barney came up "the hard way" and became one of the Nokomis businessmen and a community booster.

★ ★ ★ ★
DAVIS FUNERAL HOME

The Davis Funeral Home has all modern equipment, including an oxygen resuscitator and regulator, along with 24-hour ambulance service under the experienced directorship of E. E. Davis and his wife, the former Miss Ruby Satterfield of Pana.

This funeral home was established in 1908 by Sophia and Wm. Dude. After Mr. Dude's death, the daughter, Dora, and her husband, Charles Nicol, were owners. They modernized it and later sold to Mr. Davis, Dec., 1945.

Mr. Davis is a graduate of Worsham College of Mortuary Science of Chicago and worked for Hursen, Inc., of that city, for several years. He also served with the Armed Forces, as 1st. Lieutenant, in World War II.

The Davises are ably assisted by Mrs. Davis' brother, Rodell Satterfield, who married a local girl, Miss Kathryn Tosetti.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis, with their twins, Robert and Barbara, have made Nokomis their town and are very happy that they have chosen our friendly city in which to live.

★ ★ ★ ★
"Montgomery Co. Fair four days in Sept. 1884 in Hillsboro. First day - Old Settlers' Reunion; last day - Sweepstakes."

"Ringling Bros. Circus July 30, 1889."

DAIRY QUEEN

About sixteen years ago a new, freshly, frozen dairy food, low in butterfat and high in proteins and minerals, came into existence. It can be said with certainty that ice milk, of which Dairy Queen is one, satisfies the taste of the consumer. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lakin own such a place—"The Cone with the Curl on Top."

September, 1951, Mr. Hayes, of Pana, opened the first frozen dairy product in Nokomis. June 28, 1952, the store was sold to the Lakins. The Dairy Queen is a very busy hot weather spot on Main Street from the opening, the middle of March, to the middle of October.

Herbert is the son of Mrs. John Lakin and the late John Lakin. Mary is the daughter of Mrs. Jachino and the late Joseph Jachino. They were married June 11, 1931 and have two children: Shirley, who is employed in Springfield by the Sec'y of State, and Herbie, a freshman in the local high school.

The Dairy Queen salutes the Nokomis Centennial.

★ ★ ★ ★
TOWN PUMP

An old landmark of Nokomis, the Tammen building, at the corner of N. Spruce and Front Streets, was rejuvenated in 1946, when Jewel and Al Lauris remodeled this ancient frame building into a modern tavern known as the Town Pump. Aug. 23, 1950, Mr. Lauris passed away. Three years later Mrs. Lauris married Louis "Congo" Vercellotti, a native of Coalton. Mrs. Vercellotti is the oldest daughter of Mrs. Mary Russ, Nokomis.

★ ★ ★ ★
HOME OIL CO.

Nokomis
Phone 281

Hillsboro
KE 2-3453

The Home Oil Co., under the able management of Carl D. Brooks, has been servicing Montgomery County for the past twenty years, with TYDOL "Flying A" gasoline and heating oils and VEEDOL, "The World's most famous Motor Oils" and greases.

★ ★ ★ ★
"Ice prostrated telephone lines in the city, Dec., 1878."



FRICKE'S SHOE STORE

Nokomis' only shoe store, established June 11, 1949, is operated by Margaret L. and Walter C. Fricke. At the time of opening, they considered several makes of shoes, and chose the brand of Roberts, Johnson & Rand, as they felt they could offer the customer more value.

Walter C. was born on a farm northwest of Nokomis, the youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gustav C. Fricke. His paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Fricke, moved from Marine, Ill., to Montgomery Co., in 1867, to a farm 12 miles west of Nokomis. His maternal great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Doerr, settled on a Federal Land-Grant farm, about 13 miles northwest of town, in the Harvel vicinity, in 1854. Walter is a nephew of the late Dora S. Kerr, who successfully conducted, with her husband, the Kerr's Hardware & Variety Store in Nokomis. He was graduated from the Nokomis High School with the class of 1926 and served 14 years on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors.

June 16, 1942, Mr. Fricke married Miss Margaret L. Nash Wolaver. She had spent most of her early life in Newark, N. J. Mrs. Fricke and her mother, Ann Niefert Wolaver, came back to Nokomis in October, 1935, to take care of her grandfather, Henry C. Niefert. Grandpa Niefert was born in Louisville, Ky., one hundred years ago, coming to this community at an early age. His wife, Fiebe Apple, and her parents were settlers of the Nokomis Community over a century ago.

The Fricke Shoe Store is a family shoe store, handling Poll-Parrot shoes for the growing feet of children, Trim-Tred for the style of women, and Rand shoes for men. Back, when Nokomis was very young; "Star Brand Shoes are Better" was a familiar slogan.

The reception that Nokomis has given the Fricke's venture into business, is greatly appreciated - Hoping to serve you, the public, for many years to come.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK of Nokomis NOKOMIS, ILLINOIS

Organized and opened for business Sept. 3, 1940. First day total assets \$99,806.72. Assets at close of business May 21, 1956, \$2,762,-592.88.

First Board of Directors: L. A. Schreiber, President, Deceased; O. F. Spengel, Vice-President, Deceased; A. J. Schroeder; Wm. Zeifang; Edwin F. Pannwitt.

Present Board of Directors: L. E. Nantkes, President; J. J. Viola, Vice-President; M. W. Bagley, Cashier; J. J. Collebrusco; Fred B. Johnson; A. J. Schroeder; Felix Ronchetti.

Others who have served on the board are J. L. Walcher and Ike Smith.

Present Employees: M. W. Bagley, Cashier; Max L. Moody, Ass't. Cash. & Sec'y. to board; Alana E. Dasovich, Teller & Gen. Bkpr.; Myron K. Schaefer, Bkpr.; Edna C. Fournier, Bkpr.; Mildred M. Fearn, Bkpr., Louis A. Priess, Custodian.

Other employees who have served the bank: Wm. A. Schneeberg, Cashier, C. B. Davenport, Ass't. Cashier, now deceased, Harry G. Smith, Genevieve Singler Holmes, Helen E. Nussman Flaxbeard, Agnes M. Pintar Schrass, Mildred G. Wattjes Pudenz, Clarice L. Bagley Ruppert, Judith L. Fricke Gipson, John S. Lehenbauer, Pauline M. McClain and Mrs. Cornelia Colonius.

★ ★ ★ ★
"Report of Nat'l Bank - Resources \$151,345.72. A. J. Williford, cashier; H. F. Rood, Geo. Taylor, Geo. Seppell - directors." (1887).

"Our town (Nokomis) is \$2,000 out of debt - why not build a pavilion in the park? Litchfield is building one in their park and they are deeply in debt." 1878

"Town Board officers elected March 11, 1881 - John Frasier, pres.; A. H. Draper, clerk; Geo. Stevens, attorney; Thos. Ridler, constable & street commissioner; James Topping, night constable - all on the Temperance ticket."

"Nokomis Catholic Church rededicated February 22, 1881."

SIDES I. G. A. MARKET

The Sides I. G. A. Market has been serving the Nokomis community with groceries, meats, and vegetables for the past thirty-five years. Floyd B. Sides started in the grocery business just across the street from the present location in the summer of 1921.

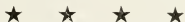
In June, 1938, the Nokomis National Bank Building was sold. Mr. Sides bought it and, after remodeling, moved to the present location, 101 East State Street. At the same time Mr. Sides became affiliated with The Independent Grocers of America. This is a national organization in which independent grocers buy collectively, passing the saving, that is gained, to the customers.

The popularity of this store is not alone due to the well known brands of canned or packed goods on the shelves, but also to the watchword, SERVICE. The whole atmosphere is one of courteous, pleasant, and efficient attention, that at once wins customers to the store. They know that for quality their line of meats, groceries, and canned goods cannot be excelled. You will always find the select and unusual at Sides I. G. A. Store.

Floyd B. Sides married the former Miss Ruth Rhine; both are natives of the Nokomis community. Floyd is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William E. Sides, and his wife is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rhine of Nokomis.

Mr. and Mrs. Sides make their home in a beautiful brick bungalow at 210 South Maple Street. They reared Mrs. Sides' nephew, James Brackenhoff, who clerks in the store. He married Miss Nelda Harbert of the Harvel community. They have one son and two daughters.

Mr. Sides is a member of the Nokomis Chamber of Commerce and the local A. F. & A. M. lodge. He has always taken an active interest in civic affairs of the Nokomis community and it is his desire to be able to be of service for years to come.



"Gregor Fleck, the butcher, installed machinery to make bologna and other kinds of sausage." 1889

NOKOMIS BUILDING ASSOCIATION

112 South Pine Street, Nokomis Illinois

The Nokomis Building Association, the oldest and strongest savings and loan association in Montgomery County, was organized May 6, 1881 by David H. Zepp, Fred O. Paddock, John Marsland, Henry Randle, and John E. Atchinson.

During its 75 years of service, the Nokomis Building Association has gone through several depressions, always emerging financially strong. In 1953 the assets of the Association crossed the Million Dollar mark. Today there are over \$120,000.00 in reserves.

The Association is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank, the United States Savings and Loan League, the Illinois Savings and Loan League, and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, an instrumentality of the United States Government, which insures all savings accounts up to \$10,000.00 each.

Hundreds of home owners in Nokomis and surrounding territory thank the Nokomis Building Association for making it possible for them to own their homes. The money placed in savings accounts with this association is reinvested in first mortgage home loans.

During the past year over \$29,000.00 in dividends has been paid on savings accounts in the Nokomis Building Association, making a sizable amount to be put in circulation in the Nokomis Community.

By the time this book is ready for general distribution, it is probable that the name of the corporation will be changed to the Nokomis Savings and Loan Association as being a more appropriate name for services offered by the Association.

Dr. Millard H. Irwin, director for 24 years and president for the past 13 years, died January 28, 1956. Arnold Woltmann, a director for 23 years and vice-president for the past 13 years, died April 23, 1956.

The present officers and directors are Dr. J. L. Walcher, president; A. E. Vandever, vice-president; A. P. Pauschert, vice-president; Edwin F. Pannwitz, secretary-treasurer; Merle B. Kottwitz, assistant secretary; L. W. Woltmann and George Moeller.

STIEHL FUNERAL HOMES

Nokomis

Witt

The Stiehl Funeral Homes have been very familiar names in giving that extra service in Nokomis, Witt, and Ohlman communities for the past many years, under the able directorship of O. J. Stiehl. He and his wife, the former Amanda Monke, are from the Mt. Olive community, where they were married after Mr. Stiehl returned from World War I.

O. J. Stiehl was graduated from the Worsham College of Mortuary Science, and first located in South Bend, Ind., where he successfully managed a funeral home for several years. On October 1, 1922, Mr. and Mrs. Stiehl came to Nokomis after they had purchased the Kroeger & Arnold Funeral Home. When the building on Main Street became inadequate, due to parking facilities, the Stiehls purchased the building at Main and Maple St. and the adjoining residence. Both were remodeled, grounds landscaped, and on Dec. 1, 1935, the present funeral home, used exclusively for funeral services, was dedicated to the Nokomis community.

In July of 1946 a father-son partnership was formed, when Jay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stiehl, returned from three and one half years' service in the U. S. Navy. This arrangement continued until 1949, when Jay and his family moved to Atwood, Illinois, where they are engaged in farming.

At this time Lee Dawson, a licensed funeral director, became affiliated with the Stiehls - the present arrangement.

On October 1, 1951, Stiehls bought the Stauder & Hoehn Funeral Service in Witt and they are now serving both communities.

Besides their son, Jay, the Stiehls have one daughter, Myra Ramers, now living in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. They also have four grandsons and one granddaughter.

Since coming to Nokomis the Stiehls have been active in all community affairs. They are members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mr. Stiehl being chairman of the building committee of the newly erected church. Mrs. Stiehl has also been active in the ladies' organizations of the church and community. Mr. Stiehl has served as secretary of the Merchants Assn., has been com-

mander of the local, county and district Legion and has served the Post as service officer since 1924. He was a charter member and first secretary of the Nokomis Rotary club and has served on the County and State boards of the Tuberculosis Associations. The name of "Stiehl's" has been history making on the Nokomis Road of Progress.



NOKOMIS LUMBER COMPANY

Nokomis Lumber Company dates back to 1913 when Frank and Harry Hargrave did business for a quarter century, then the building was left to deteriorate. Rufus Niemi and Roy Kessinger held weekly sales here for a time.

On January 16, 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Luba of Cicero, Ill., and Dwain R. Seifert, and Charles Dobernick bought the building from Mr. Niemi, and completely remodeled it with modern equipment. The first of this year Mr. Dobernick sold his interest to the other two.

The Nokomis Lumber Co. has the agency of the Johns Manville panels and planks which build, decorate, and insulate at the same time.

Lillian and Frank Luba have a dry goods store in Cicero, and are the parents of three daughters. D. R. Seifert, the manager, is a serviceman of World War II; he married Rowena Christy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Christy. They have three sons: Larry, Kenneth and Alex. Rowena operates the "Rowena Beauty Shop".



As these are prosperous times, and Nokomis is the most enterprising town on this road, why not sink a coal shaft? (April, 1880).

"The Building Association made its first loan on Tuesday night of this week (May 10, 1881), the money selling at a premium of 25 and 30 per cent."

"Bee Line Route I & St. L. R.R. will sell excursion tickets to Washington and return for all to see the inauguration." March, 1881.

LP GAS PLANT OF NOKOMIS GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY PIONEERS IN THE HANDLING AND USE OF LP GAS



This company was opened for business on Mar. 15th, 1928, by L. E. Nantkes and Ora K. Weber. It was organized primarily for the purpose of handling farm machinery, but during the first year bottled natural gas was put on the market and this was added to the line. This company installed one of the first L P Gas stoves in Central Illinois. After two years Mr. Weber left the Company and it has since been under the management of L. E. Nantkes. The next year farm machinery was

dropped and since that time the company has been promoting the use of what is known as L P Gas. From this small beginning the company now serves more than 700 customers. The management has always believed that employees are entitled to share in any profits, so at the present time the company is owned by L. E. Nantkes, Morris H. Rennekamp, Ambrose Kroenlein, James Goodwin, Ray West, Mildred Fetsko, and Mary A. Jodaitis.



BRANHAM'S VARIETY STORE

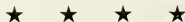
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Branham started a Nokomis Variety Store on the last of March, 1915, in the Kroeger & Arnold Bldg., now owned by Elio Tosetti.

In 1917, as the war years had expanded their business, the Branhams bought at the present location from Jesse Griffin, who had conducted a hardware and furniture store.

May, 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Branham bought another variety store in Terre Haute, Ind. and moved to that city, leaving their store, in Nokomis, to hired managers. The first manager was Leoretto Kroller, followed by Mr. Fletch, Fred C. Michelman, Mr. Browman, and the present manager, Leslie Sperry. Leslie started working in the store in 1946 and became manager 3 yrs. later. Mr. Michelman served in this capacity for 25 years, from 1923 - 1948. Carrie Cook has worked in the store for 34 years.



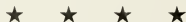
The Branhams wish to say "Thanks" to the Nokomis Community, with expressed appreciation to their efficient managers.



CARROLL'S ANTIQUE & GIFT SHOP

A hobby that started in her home 13 years ago has developed into a thriving business at 120 E. State St., Nokomis.

Mrs. Hilda Carroll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Geiss, handles anything that can be termed a collector's item. Most of her many customers are out of town and she prides the fact that her first customer in 1943 still does business at Carroll's Antique and Gift Shop — a thought that all business likes to cherish.



"The A. F. Weaver new home is completed." (Now the Park House). 1889

THE SALE SUPERETTE

Phone 16 A-G Food Store Nokomis, Ill.

The Sale Superette is probably the oldest location of a grocery store in Nokomis. Henry Runge started a grocery at this location around 1886 and sold out to Crumbaugh & Law in 1898. Crumbaugh & Law operated under this name until 1899 when it became Crumbaugh & Co.

In April of 1900 F. C. Best purchased the business from Crumbaugh & Co. and in Jan. 1901, he took a partner, W. H. Shannon. This firm of Shannon & Best operated until 1912 when they sold to Frank Kroeger and H. A. Arnold. Kroeger and Arnold operated as partners until 1924 when Frank Kroeger entered the insurance field and H. A. Arnold continued to operate the grocery and dry goods business; H. A. "Dutch" Arnold stayed the longest of any of his predecessors, selling to George M. Sale in 1950. George and "Dutch" spent the longest time of any in this location. George Sale started to work for H. A. Arnold in March, 1927, and purchased the business in Oct. 1950, making almost 24 years of pleasant employer-employee relationship.

The present building was built in 1899 or 1900 by Robert Gelly. Robert Gelly maintained ownership of the building until his death, when it was sold by his heirs to Kroeger & Arnold in 1916. In 1932 H. A. Arnold and Frank Kroeger dissolved their real estate holdings and H. A. Arnold became the owner until he sold to George Sale in Oct., 1950.

Geo. M. Sale, son of Phillip and Ida Sale, married Ella Engelman, daughter of Edward and Gertrude Engelman, in Nov. 1933. They have three children, Donald, at present in the U. S. Army in the Far East; Shelby, a junior in High School, and Georgia, age 3.

It has been the policy of all our predecessors to deal fairly with the customer and maintain quality at fair prices. This is still the aim of The Sale Superette to give "Quality Food at Economical Prices." Employed at the Sale Superette in addition to the family is Rudy Hribar and Dorothy Westphal. Our best wishes to Nokomis and community on this centennial celebration. May Nokomis have continued success and prosperity.

NOKOMIS NEWSPAPERS

Probably the oldest business venture in Nokomis is the Free Press, which was first published in 1877 by E. M. Hulbert, and, now in its 87th year, is known as the Free Press-Progress.

In 1877 the Free Press and the Gazette, a newspaper that had started a few months before, were consolidated under the name of Free Press-Gazette and managed by Hulbert and Graden. Later Adam Rademacher obtained possession until 1880 when E. M. Hulbert again took over the duties of editor. It was in 1881 that J. W. Wild entered the picture working as a printer for Mr. Hulbert for six years, after which time Wild became a partner with Mr. Hulbert.

The exact date of Mr. Hulbert's leaving the newspaper business in Nokomis is not known, but his interest was sold to Henry Webster, who died in 1917. Mrs. Webster delegated her part in the business to her son, Luther E. Shoemaker.

During this period there was a paper being published by A. K. Vandever and his sons, A. E. and L. K. Vandever, named the Progress, which had been purchased from W. P. Hagthorpe in 1908. It was in 1917 that A. E. Vandever and Luther E. Shoemaker consolidated the two papers under the name of the Free Press-Progress. Several years later Shoemaker sold his interest in the paper to Charles R. Frederick; then D. B. Pauschert entered the picture by taking over the Frederick interest. It was in 1934 that Pauschert sold his interest in the paper to A. E. Vandever. The paper is now owned by A. E. Vandever, Edmond B. Vandever, and Edward J. Ovca, and operated by Vandever and Ovca.

The plant is a well fitted country printing office publishing the seven column, 10 to 16 page weekly newspaper and doing commercial and offset printing.

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Some market prices in 1887: spring chicken 4c lb.; roosters 2c lb.; hens 4c a lb.; apples 50c a bu.; beefsteak 10c a lb.; roast 8c a lb.; bacon 8 & 10c a lb.; corn 26 & 27c a bu.; wheat 72c a bu.; oats 22c a bu.; butter 8-15c a lb.



THE NOKOMIS EQUITY ELEVATOR

THE NOKOMIS EQUITY ELEVATOR pictured above was organized in 1930. The elevator proper, concrete warehouse, and part of the present office were constructed in 1918 and operated until 1930 under the name of NOKOMIS FARMERS CO-OP ELEVATOR COMPANY. At that time the Company was re-organized under its present charter and became affiliated with the National Farmers Equity, whose president was Mr. LeRoy Milton of Greenville, Ill. The Company is chartered and operates under the Capper-Volstead Act of 1923.

The first Board of Directors were Wm. Herzog, pres.; Henry C. Weber, vice-pres.; Wm. Brockman, sec'y.; Fred Bauman, George Hardy, Heie D. Janssen and John Epley. Roy N. Phillips was employed as manager, and served in that capacity until Jan., 1947.

The charter members of the organization consisted of 92 co-op minded producers of this trading area with a capital investment of \$28,000.00. This number has increased until the Company now has 715 stockholders with a capital investment of \$77,625.00.

Five of the first eight years of operation

the Company operated at a loss. All other years have netted a fair amount of profit.

Since 1947 the warehouse space has been greatly increased and an additional 80,000 bu. of grain storage has been built. The original elevator was modernized, and labor saving modern cleaning, grinding and mixing facilities were installed to render the best of service to the patrons. These improvements have increased the total fixed assets of the Company from the original \$47,000.00 to the present \$156,000.00.

Besides handling grain, the Company retails feed, seed, fertilizer, and farm supplies for its members and patrons.

The present Board of Directors are Henry C. Weber, pres.; Edw. O. Herzog, vice-pres.; Fred C. Bauman, sec'y.; Harold Casey, Joseph Schrempp, Walter J. Meier, and Lester Epley. Others who have served on the Board at different times since the Company was organized are Albert Reincke, Fred Michelman, Richard J. Wattjes and Maurice Archibald.

Of the 92 original stockholders, 23 are still producers and members after 26 years. At present the Company is managed by Fred Heck who succeeded Mr. Phillips in 1947.

NOKOMIS FARMERS MUTUAL FIRE AND LIGHTNING INSURANCE CO.

&

PANA-HILLSBORO DISTRICT CYCLONE MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

When Nokomis was only twenty years old, the Nokomis Farmers Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company was started; therefore they are celebrating eighty years of continuous service in this farming community.

Due to heavy losses in Philadelphia more than two hundred years ago, Benjamin Franklin started the Philadelphia Mutual Contributionship, of which the local Mutual Company is a branch. In fact all insurance is based upon this humble beginning. On March 1, 1876, an organization meeting was called with J. H. Beatty as president and L. A. Sweany as secretary. Two weeks later, A. F. Weaver was chosen as permanent secretary. This meeting was held in the Weaver Building where the five directors elected, representing each township, were J. M. Kerr, Rountree; A. F. Weaver, Nokomis; Wm. Oberle, Witt; J. B. Pocock, Audubon; and Wm. Bowers, Irving. In 1882 J. M. Kerr was put in as president.

At the Annual Meeting, 1889, Jacob Haller was elected president and F. M. McNaughton as secretary; E. B. Pocock also served as the president with Mr. Brophy as secretary. William H. Casselberry later took Mr. Brophy's place and served the company well for many years.

Going into modern history, we find Perry Weber as president and R. B. Warnsing as the secretary. Mr. Warnsing served until his death in 1949. The following Annual Meeting, January, 1950, E. W. Schneider was elected secretary and is serving now. In 1947 Clarence Zeifang was elected president.

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College Students - Amy Stewart, Jacksonville; Jennie Hulbert and Wm. Gray, Shurtleff; Martha Upstone, Oxford Seminary; John Seys, Ann Arbor; Luella Denman, Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

"Lafe Sawyer graduated from Northwestern U. College of Pharmacy - July, 1889."

From their beginning of five townships in 1876 and less than sixteen thousand dollars in assets, they now have over nine million dollars and twelve hundred policy holders representing sixteen townships. The Farmers Mutual has the lowest rates of any of the non-profit insurance companies of the state. It is affiliated with the Pana-Hillsboro District Cyclone Mutual Ins. Co., located at Hillsboro. Henry F. Hofferkamp is president, Herbert S. Smith, vice-president and C. W. Boone, secretary. This company handles the coverage of wind, cyclone, and hail of forty-five counties of Illinois, which is the second largest in the state governed by the Department of Insurance, and as such, have their Annual Meeting on the fourth Tuesday in January. At the past meeting the following fourteen directors were re-elected: L. W. Hulbert and Harry Hoffman, Nokomis; Clarence Zeifang and Chester Pocock, Audubon; Olin N. Snyder and Rex Weller, Rountree; Louis N. Probst and Edw. Speiser, Witt; Gerald McElroy and Phillip Speiser, Irving; Carl Reincke and Nelson Bollman, Greenwood; and John Brookens and Frank Repschen, Johnson Township.

The sixteen townships from which any of the directors can take applications are Nokomis, Witt, Rountree, Audubon, Irving, Raymond and N. Fillmore in Montgomery County; Oconee in Shelby County; Hurricane in Fayette County; Bear Creek, Greenwood, Johnson, Ricks, Locust, Rosamond and Taylorville in Christian County. At the Annual Meeting, bordering townships can be added.

May the Nokomis Farmers Mutual and Lightning Insurance Company be congratulated for the fine service performed in the past eighty years and may they continue to serve the community for years and years to come.

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G. A. R. - Headquarters Camp-fire and Reunion of Soldiers and Sailors in Nokomis, September 27, 28, 29, 1889.

"Nokomis will hold its first annual fair Sept. 25, 26, 27, 1889."

"No bathing in the Mill Pond." 1884



THE HEDLUND MANUFACTURING COMPANY

In July, 1948, Swan Hedlund met Ed Ruppert and Ray McCurdy at a reunion at a lake in Augusta, Wisconsin, and during the course of conversation Mr. Hedlund expressed a desire to go into business and stated that he was interested in establishing a wood-working plant, having had a number of years experience in this line of work in Minnesota. The Nokomisans advised that Nokomis was looking for a new industry and hoped that the town might be considered for a location.

The following day Mr. Hedlund and Mr. Glenn L. Reed started driving south through Illinois and had tentatively thought they might find a location in the southern part of the state near Cairo. However, they investigated all possibilities along the route and actually did not get all the way down to southern Illinois. They had almost decided on locating in Litchfield when Mr. Ruppert and Mr. McCurdy persuaded them to come to Nokomis as the people were anxious to get industry in the locality. Mr. Kenneth Moss was contacted and a meeting of the business men was called. An agreement was entered into at that time whereby Nokomis New Industries would furnish a building for the plant, shares of stock being sold by Nokomis New Industries to finance the project.

Upon completion in late 1948, the building was sold to the Hedlund Manufacturing Company who opened for business in January, 1949, with eight plant employees and one office employee. Principal items manufactured at the time were toboggans and snow skis. Late in that year the manufacture of water skis was started on a small scale but during the past few years the popu-

larity of water skiing has advanced so rapidly that water skis have now become the main item manufactured.

The early years were a struggle for this new industry and during the first two years it operated at a loss. With determination and hard work of the officers of the company and the full cooperation of its employees, the plant has now grown to the extent that, with each passing year, production and sales have practically doubled. The Hedlund Manufacturing Company supplies its products to every state in the United States and exports to many foreign countries. Inquiries regarding these water skis have been received from various parts of the world and shipments have recently been made to Singapore, Dutch Indies, Tahiti, South America, Mexico, Canada, England, and Sweden. Approximately 90% of the water skis used by champions and in competition in tournaments are furnished by this company. It has become the largest water ski manufacturer in the country, and the name of Nokomis is known far and wide as the home of the Hydro-Flite water skis.

The plant was originally started with 10,000 sq. ft. of floor space; facilities have been expanded extensively during the past years so that at the present time another addition is being made to the plant which, when completed, will give approximately 30,000 sq. ft. of space in all. Five years ago the manufacture of water skis averaged about 1500 pairs for the year, three years ago 10,000 pairs, and this year it is estimated that production will be well over 40,000 pairs besides all other accessories and in addition to the other lines manufactured. Employees have increased from the original eight to seventy and office personnel from one to seven.

In 1953 a sled manufacturing business was purchased and added to plant operations. At the present time Hedlund Manufacturing Company manufactures water skis, toboggans, snow skis, sleds, and hockey sticks.

The Hedlund Manufacturing Company is grateful to the people of Nokomis for their support and proud to have been a part of the town's progress.

THE KETTELKAMP IMPLEMENT CO.

The JOHN DEERE CO. whose business in Nokomis is handled by the Kettelkamp Implement Company, is marking 100 years of PROGRESS - just as Nokomis is doing this year. The first premium on plows at the Illinois State Fair in 1856 was taken by John Deere, of Moline, who exhibited a dozen different sizes for different uses.

The history of the Kettelkamp Implement Company had its beginning about 40 years ago when Julius F. Kettelkamp, with Miller, Crickenberger, and Young, was in the real estate and insurance business. Their office was where Rt. 16 Cafe is now located. Mr. Kettelkamp was still on the farm, north of Nokomis, but would walk to work every day.

In 1917 Mr. Kettelkamp built at the corner of E. State and Maple Streets. Here he held the agency for Chevrolet and Overland cars. In 1926 he took over the agency to sell Oliver implements, along with his car and insurance business. In 1928, when Ted and Henry Johnson took the International line of implements, Mr. Kettelkamp decided to handle the John Deere implements; at that time he bought the present building from Ray W. Snedeker, and the firm was known as the Kettelkamp Implement Co. With this purchase, he took over the agency of selling Hudson, Dodge and Essex cars, along with the others. He continued in this large line of selling until his death on March 26, 1943, when John F. Cook, who had been his salesman since 1923, took over the management for Mrs. Emma Kettelkamp, wife of the founder. Mr. Cook served in this capacity until February 2, 1952, when the business was sold; thus Johnny put in thirty years of service for the Kettelkamp Implement Company. The business changed hands but not the name, when Fred W. Kettelkamp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benj. T. Kettelkamp, bought the company. They also have the agency for Westinghouse appliances.

Fred was born and raised on a farm in the Kettelkamp community north of Nokomis. He truly knows the farmers' needs by actual experience. Mr. Kettelkamp married the former Miss Noretta Hicks, a graduate of the Pana High School. She works for the

firm as bookkeeper. The Kettelkamps are the parents of three children - sons, Benny and Bruce, and daughter, Sue.

Leon Pieper, mechanic, was working for Mr. Snedeker when Julius F. Kettelkamp bought the business and has been there ever since. Lester Fesser, parts-man, has been with the firm for the past fifteen years.

The Kettelkamp Implement Company offers the best of implements and service that this agricultural community could ask for. With the plow that took honors at the State Fair, the Kettelkamp Implement Company, salutes Nokomis and the 100 years of PROGRESS.



JUBELT'S VARIETY BAKERIES

114 E. State St.

Nokomis, Ill.

The B. & B. Bakery was located at this location, when Bob and Evelyn Allan started in 1949. Mr. Allan at one time worked for Jubelt Bakeries.

This spring Mr. Jubelt added Nokomis to his list of four bakery shops. Gene Gorsich is the baker and manager of the Nokomis shop, and Mrs. Bliss Parker and Mrs. Junior Parker are clerks.

Paul M. Jubelt started in Mt. Olive in 1922 and now has places in Mt. Olive, Litchfield, Taylorville and the one in Nokomis. His son, John, is associated with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Jubelt make their home in Mt. Olive and manage the local shop. Besides the son, John, they are the parents of a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy McEdowney, of Chicago Heights, Ill.

The Jubelt Variety Bakeries wish to extend the heartiest congratulations to the Nokomis Centennial.

"A singing school under management of Rev. McKee opened with more than 45 scholars - May, 1884."



MOHAWK FURNITURE & HARDWARE COMPANY

The history of the Mohawk Furniture & Hardware Co. dates back to 1904, when the late F. J. Pannwitt bought the implement business from the Challecomb Brothers. This was in the corner building that now houses the Nokomis Implement Co. In 1908 Edwin joined his father in business and the firm was known as F. J. Pannwitt & Son.

In 1912 Mr. Pannwitt took on a line of hardware and built the present building. Four years later Mr. Pannwitt and son added furniture, along with their hardware, and four years later the building was enlarged.

Edwin continued the business after the death of his father, with the help of his brother-in-law, Fred Layer, and Edward Ruppert, until July 24, 1946, when Fred B. Johnson bought the building and Edgar Richardson, son-in-law of Mr. Johnson, started what was known as the Richardson Furniture and Hardware Store.

Mr. Richardson was in the Army Air Corps Reserves and was therefore called back into the service on March 1, 1953; at that time Lloyd V. Davis, who was a native of Nokomis, had been in St. Louis for the last 12 years, was called to manage the store.

With Eddie Richardson in Greenland and not being able to look after his interest in the store properly, he decided to sell to his father-in-law on the first of Oct., 1953.

Fred B. Johnson took over the store and changed the name to Mohawk Furniture & Hardware Co. He retained Lloyd Davis as manager until his untimely death, April 14, 1956. Others who work for the firm are Ed. Ruppert, Jerry Crow, and Roy Becker.

The building is a two-story structure and is one of the best built and best looking in Nokomis; the well known brands of furniture with the fine stock of hardware give

this community a fine place to shop.

Capt. Richardson and family are now living in San Antonio, Tex. The story of Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Johnson can be found under Johnson Auto Co. History.

★ ★ ★ ★ ILLINOIS CONSOLIDATED TELEPHONE COMPANY

The Montgomery County Telephone Co. was organized in October, 1895, with the following directors: G. W. Huffer and W. S. Berry of Coffeen; J. J. Frey, C. A. Ramsey, A. M. Howell, and W. A. Howett of Hillsboro; G. Carstens of Nokomis. In 1896 the first telephone line was completed to Nokomis with the instrument in the Schaper Drug Store.

The 1908 Nokomis telephone directory listed 428 names, 28 of which are still in the 1956 directory.

This company was sold to the Illinois Consolidated Telephone Co. in 1924. The following tabulation shows the growth of telephone subscribers in Nokomis since 1915: 1915—472 telephones; 1925—760; 1935—560; 1945—797; 1955—1,305; and 1956—1,339.

Today there are 11 operators—Julia Epley, chief operator; Billie Schaefer, supervisor; Dorothy Bruns, Helen Cassidy, Mary Conterio, Anna Belle Glavish, Donna Janssen, Nelinda Tosetti, Wanda Turner, Delores Reed, Jean Wright, and two linemen, Julio Maretti and Wm. Westphal—in the Nokomis office where more than 4,500 local calls and 200 long distance calls are averaged daily.

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“Considerable labor is now being performed on the east part of Union St. The street commissioner hopes to secure a perfect system of drainage.” (Now, 72 years later, East Union is again under reconstruction.)

“Nokomis baseball team defeated Hillsboro's team - July, 1884.”

“Notice - All members of the Nokomis Library association will please return books by Friday, April 23, 1880. S. A. Henkel - librarian.”

WELSCH'S
BAKERY & RESTAURANT

SPRUCE STREET

NOKOMIS, ILLINOIS

Joseph Welsch, Prop.

1906 - 1932

Piano and Voice
119 S. Maple St., Margaret Rademacher,
Instructor, Ph. 49

Chiropractor
110 E. State St., Irvin Mathias, Ph. 104

Optometrist
104 S. Pine St., Benj. T. Rose, Phone 72-L

Woodman Life & Accident Insurance Co.
204 S. Vine St., James Vancil Agt., Ph. 60-W

Schaefer's Coal Company
206 W. Front St., Homer Schaefer, Ph. 159

Charlie's Plumbing and Heating
212 S. Vine St., Chas. Lehnen, Prop.
Ph. 116-L

Plumbing, Sheet Metal, Furnace Work
S. Spruce St., C. R. Gleich, Reg. Plumber
Prop.

Lenzi Plumbing and Heating
713 N. Spruce St., Joe Lenzi, Jr., Lisc.
Plumber, Ph. 217

Mutt and Jeff — Builders
Harry Stinn and Jack Sale

Charm Beauty Shop
212 S. Vine St., Ursula Lehnen, Prop.
Ph. 116-L

Opal Matthews' Beauty Shop
197½ S. Spruce St. Opal Matthews, Prop.
Ph. 449-L

Rowena's Beauty Shop
Ph. 443-K
330 Sherman St., Rowena Seifert, Prop.

Shamrock Beauty Shop
104 So. Spruce St., Doris Dewerff, Prop.
Ph. 93-K

Virginia Ann Beauty Salon
112 S. Pine St., Mary Spengel, Prop., Ph. 34

Len's Barber Shop
112 S. Spruce St., Leonard Mehochko, Prop.

Buchko's Barber Shop
211 W. State St., Geo. Buchko, Prop.
F. Verneti, Barber

Wilson's DeLuxe Barber Shop
19 S. Spruce St., A. B. Parsons, Prop.

Cesaretti Oil Company
211 N. Maple, Louis Cesaretti, Distributor
Ph. 251-K

D-X Oil
103 Frederick St., Milton (Bill) Kettelkamp,
Distr., Ph. 292-K

Farmers' Service Station
315 E. State St., Wm. J. Nash, Mgr. Ph. 151-K

Gipson's Sinclair Station
Cor. S. Spruce & E. Union, Jesse R. Gipson,
Prop.

Golitko Cities Service
E. Rt. 16, John "Cot" Golitko, Mgr.
Ph. 227-K

Goodwin Service Station
11 N. Spruce St., Johnny & Tommy
Marathon Oil and Gas

Heck's Texaco Service
E. Rt. 16, Herb Heck, Prop., Ph. 276-K

Hinkle Standard Service
Cor. W. State & S. Cedar, Chas. Hinkle, Prop.
Ph. 155

Nokomis Oil Company
W. Rt. 16, Izzy & Barney, Props., Ph. 186

Wharton's Marathon Service Station
E. Rt. 16, Guy Wharton, Prop., Ph. 242-K

Wides Service Station
Cor. W. State & S. Cedar, Joe Lenzi, Sr.,
Mgr.

Village Tavern
Coalton — John Fetsko, Prop.
Phone 285-L



PICTURES
and
REMINISCENCES

"MEMORIES ARE PRECIOUS TREASURES WE
KEEP WITHIN THE INNER VAULT OF OUR SOULS."

*In Solemn Tribute to
Those of Our Comrades--
Courageous, Great Men--
For Whom There Was
No Homecoming*

CIVIL WAR
SPANISH AMERICAN WAR
WORLD WAR I
WORLD WAR II



F. Schaper, G. Scott, M. Stobbs, A. Kroll, F. Swartz, A. Kerr, O. Ekey
 A. J. Eekhoff, (Unknown), W. Stobbs, L. Oberle, R. Tooley, C. Pullen, G. Whitten, W. Greg,
 D. Weaver



Nokomis City Park
 (fence around it)
 James W. Scott
 Fred Homley

A Chicken Dinner

When Thomas Stevenson Battles arrived in Nokomis 95 years ago he carried five hundred dollars in gold in a money belt around his body which he said grew heavier each day. With this he bought 200 acres of land from Wesley Seymore, a land agent at Hillsboro, 160 acres of which had been part of a land grant used to pay off a Massachusetts volunteer for his service in the army.

A short time later Mr. Battles brought his wife, Ann E. Battles, and six children, the youngest of whom, Anna, aged 4, was well known in Nokomis as Mrs. George N. Uzzell. The adventures of this family were many and varied. Anna loved to come to town and watch the horses work the treadmill that sawed wood for the trains, as all locomotives burned wood at that time. The station was an old box-car located behind Rood's General Store which stood about where Keele's place is now. The one other business building was the blacksmith shop owned by Smith Swords, an ancestor of the well known Dickey Swords.

Mrs. Matilda Swords Frassier and her husband were living on the farm bought by Mr. Battles, and they sold him their crops, livestock and poultry. The pigs and ducks slept under the cabin and kept up such a noise that no one could sleep. The ducks nibbled the floor and the pigs were full of fleas that got into the house and bit the kids, so the cabin had to be boarded up to keep them out.

The chickens were so wild it was necessary to shoot one if a chicken dinner was wanted. One day company came unexpectedly and the son was sent out to shoot a guinea. Little sister Anna peeked around the corner of the house to see how he was getting along just as he fired. One shot hit her, knocking her down and scaring him nearly out of his wits. She was not badly hurt but she carried the mark all her life. He hit the guinea, two hens, and crippled the rooster. As this was during the Civil War, the settlers had trouble with guerrillas, a band of whom had their headquarters at Van Burenburg. Hearing of Mr. Battles having paid for his land with gold (paper money being very uncertain as

to value those days) they decided to pay him a visit and find out if he had any more.

Hearing of this by way of the grape-vine, he sent a telegram to the governor, who replied that there would be 100 militia-men within an hour's ride of the place. This message was sent back by grape-vine, and the guerrillas never came.

Nevertheless everything was kept ready for a raid and one day a large group was seen coming through the swamp that bordered the south edge of the farm. The dust was so great that only a few horsemen could be distinguished. All ran for the house and armed themselves with rifles, shot guns, pistols, pitch forks, axes, corn knives, and clubs. The two smallest girls, Hannah and Anna, were told to get under the bed which they did only to pop out again to see what was going on. They were chased back again; about that time the dust cleared away revealing what was supposed to be guerrillas to be a herd of cattle stampeding and the horsemen were the herders trying to round them up.

This story is taken from the records kept by Mrs. Anna Battles Uzzell and her parents, and is correct in every detail.

February 27, 1891

The Champion Peach which originated at Nokomis, at the nursery of Mr. I. G. Hubbard appears to be getting a world wide reputation.

We observe a number of extracts from leading papers and testimonials with reference to this peach, and as they come from high authority it speaks well for Mr. Hubbard as a pomologist.

Points of superiority claimed for this variety of peach are hardness and productiveness. It ripens early, is one of the largest and highly flavored early peaches, and best shipper of early variety. It is a perfect free stone—a rare thing among early peaches.

On Thursday May 7, 1891, a swarm of bees attacked the team of horses driven by Walter Hovey and hitched to J. Woltmann's & Co. produce wagon. As a result the team ran away, the wagon was demoralized, and 200 dozen eggs were broken. The accident happened some six miles north of town.



Nokomis Juvenile Band—1916

Back row: E. Belcher, A. Baxter, S. Nash, B. Belcher, J. Masner, A. Geral, V. Layman, M. Pierpont, J. Harrison
 Middle row: J. Bostonetti, G. Kapilla, S. Willis, J. Pendleton, P. McPherson, R. Bender, G. Maxeiner, O. McManus
 Front row; E. Krumm, Hutchison II.—drum major, B. Powers, “Chick” Hutchison—leader



The Wm. Taylor Store

Celia Beeler, Minnie Kueck, Lydia Engelmann, Nell Taylor, Alice Stewart, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Taylor



The Jayne Barber Shop
Andrew Jayne and son, Tony



Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Audubon, built in 1856, the forerunner of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This building was later (1868) sold to the Methodists.



Woltmann's White Steamer
G. Brakenhoff, Arnold Woltmann,
John Woltmann, Jesse Woltmann



The big snow—March, 1912



The Hartsock Mill



First Armistice Day in Nokomis — 1919



Spannagel Hardware,
Furniture, & Buggies

From the Nokomis Gazette, June 15, 1872. (T. J. Pickett & H. F. White—Editors).

A meeting will be held at Brookman's Hall, Mon., June 17, to make arrangements for a big Fourth of July celebration in Nokomis.

A new color is called "Vende".

The Dolly Varden costumes are falling into bad repute.

Nokomis Nursery—H. T. Hubbard—one mile southeast of Nokomis.

George Culp—Dealer in Burial Caskets.

J. L. Mills—Dentist—Teeth filled with gold, silver, or tin foil.

The ladies of the Methodist mite society cleared \$70 on their festival held in the Brookman Hall, June, 1872.

From the Nokomis Weekly Atlas, Feb. 28, 1881. (H. M. Graden, Publisher).

Thos. Pinkerton — Barber & Hair Dresser.

Mrs. Bryce's Bazaar of Fashion.

Matthew Stobbs—Dealer in Clothing.

David Marston has sold his residence about one mile south of town, to Robert Gelly.

Members of the Nokomis Cornet Band elected E. J. Pullen, leader, and Ad. E. Rodecker, Sec.-treas.

Married on Thurs., the 24th at the residence of the officiating clergyman, Rev. Wm. Vanhooser, Mr. John Bruns of Ohlman and Miss Mary Longbine of Rountree.

J. N. Barney — dealer in groceries, queensware, glassware, wood and willow ware. Produce taken in exchange for goods.

Easterday Bros., Druggists. New Firm! New Goods! New Prices! Old Stand of Bliss & Co.—Jan., 1881.

"Town in mourning over death of President Garfield. Business houses closed from 10-4. Black crepe on doors of stores and homes. Church bells tolled - Sept., 1881."

"Button gloves are more worn than mousquetaires." (fashion note, May, 1887).

"Aaron Garrison sold his farm of 160 acres to Wm. Kettelkamp for \$3,500 - less than \$22 an acre."

"Hot election between the license and anti-license groups. Antis won March, 1879."

Mr. and Mrs. George Sippell came to Nokomis in 1871 as newlyweds and went to housekeeping at the present address of 417 S. Vine St. Mr. Sippell's jewelry store was located in a building where the present V.F.W. Hall is, and Mrs. Sippell could see the jewelry store from her back door!!!

Mrs. Sippell brought the first bananas to Nokomis. She went on a visit to Cincinnati and brought the bananas back with her.

Back in the 70's trains stopped in Nokomis for the passengers to get their meals at the hotel, The Prairie House operated by Mr. Jim Bone on Front St. just back of the station.

The oldest house in Nokomis which is still standing was built in 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley and Meron live there. It is just across "Lovers' Bridge" on S. Union St.

"Driving Park Association arranged for races on July 4. Green trotters and pacers. Purses \$7 for first and \$3 for second. Half mile dash for \$10 open to all horses." 1896.

"Eight foot vein of coal struck at Witt. Shaft completed July, 1896."

"City Council voted to charge School Board 5c a pupil for the use of city water." 1896.

"City Council notified railroad company to put crossings at Oak and Walnut Streets." (Not in yet.) 1896.

"Maro and Owen Ekey have a canning factory on their farm. They have placed in the stores canned peaches, peach butter, corn, and tomatoes. They raise their own fruit and vegetables to can." 1896.

"Some of the boys who bet on the election settled their debts Sat. night by taking their friends a ride down Main St. in a wheel barrow. The drum corps headed the procession." 1896.

"J. Chambers, H. O. Pinkerton, R. T. Paddock, O. Ekey, O. Reese, Florence Durdy, Ollie Pullen, & Mrs. E. Cooper made up the local talent 'Ideal Comedy Company.' They put on the play, 'Josh', to entertain the home folks." 1896.



Group of Men on Deer
Hunting Expedition in
Arkansas—about 1896

Jim Wilson, Abe Bour-
quin, John Durston, Otis
Kellogg, Richard Rawling,
John Challacombe, Jacob
Harkey, Michael Probst



First Paving Project

In Nokomis

**Nokomis Bachelors'
Picnic**

**Float—"Why Not
Accept Us?"**



"50 years ago - taxes were not so high; circuses had no elephants; sermons were a mile long; log houses were mansions; pew rents were never heard of; coonskins were legal tender; eggs were 3c a doz.; blazed trails guided the traveler; hotels did not charge \$2 a day; woods were full of wild game; there was no bottom to the roads; beefsteak was 3c a lb.; the old oaken bucket hung on a pole." (1884)

"Congressman bought a St. Bernard dog for his sweetheart - object - keep other men away at all hazards."

"Tickets to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento via New Orleans February 13 - March 15 to see the Mardi Gras. Choice 9 routes." —1887

Church Directory: Baptist - no pastor, Lutheran - Rev. Lilly, Christian - Rev. W. Van Hoosier, Catholic - Fr. J. Storp, Methodist - Rev. H. W. Davis, Presbyterian - Rev. T. E. Spillman.

"Letter list published for letters that had been in the office 30 days."

"Sid Easterday is moving the old White Settlement school house to his father's farm where he expects to make a dwelling of it."

Circuit Court proceedings: embezzlement, carrying concealed weapons, larceny, perjury, house of ill fame, murder, confidence game, selling mortgaged property, disturbing, religious meetings, selling liquor in less quantities than one gallon, selling liquor to a minor."



Woltmann's Store

Jesse Woltmann, Arnold
Woltmann, Dora Grote,
Garrelt Brakenhoff, Louis
Woltmann (on wagon).

"G. R. Spannagel sold 5280 ft. (1 mile)
of stovepipe in the fall season of 1887."

"Mr. Washington Ekey spent the winter
in Florida." (That custom isn't new today.)

Ice Cutting On Ekey's Pond



IT WAS A LONELY FACE

With graceful hands and face as fair
As any maiden near,
With honesty and talents rare,
And Voice, pleasing to hear.

Thru rain and hail and sun and gale,
Before the public stare,
Toiling precisely not to fail
The ones who passed by there;

And dedicated to a work
Of most concern to all
And ne'er a minute did she shirk
Thru summer, spring, or fall.

And even when the winter came,
And blustery winds would blow,
The work was carried on the same
In sunshine or in snow.

Thru years and years of honest toil,
Thru prosperous ones and lean,
Thru happiness and thru turmoil
This face was always seen.

Men looked at her and hurried on;
Some looked and looked again,
And many who have looked are gone,
And many strangers came.

To glance at this most lovely face
And slender graceful hands,
From far and near unto this place
They came from many lands.

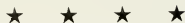
But now the years have piled up high
Upon this face so fair,
And these same years have dimmed the eye
Of some who lingered there.

Time claimed the beauty of this face;
Those hands are motionless,
And men who had admired their grace
Now see their uselessness.

So when the sun had climbed the east
And heralded the day,
There was no minister or priest
To kneel or even pray,

But men came trudging to this place
With tackle and with block
To take away this weary face
Nokomis' old Town Clock.

G. D. Robbins



Several of the boys who raided the principal of the Nokomis school last winter, have been liquidating the amount of their fines this week by working it out in street labor.

"Basket Picnic at Nokomis, June 15, 1881, James Young - Marshal of the day. Free Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Honor all in full regalia in the parade."

Plea for street crossings from sidewalks around the public square to the stiles.

"School enrollment Sept., 1881 - Room 1, Mrs. Randal 71; Room 2, Miss Belnap 49; Room 3, Miss Scales 46; Room 4, Miss Shelly 35; Room 5, Miss Graves 45; Room 6, Miss Boone 40 - total 286."

"Good baseball team 'Clippers', consistent winners."

"Prairie House burned - Eureka House threatened but saved - Front Street, north of R. R. station." 1881.

1884

"Huntley Dramatic Co. played the drama, 'A Celebrated Case', to a large audience in Weaver's Hall - Jan., 1884."

"Nokomis Dramatic Co. presented the drama, 'Turn of the Tide' or 'Wrecked in Port' at Weaver's Hall - Feb. 22, 1884. Cast: G. Castens, G. F. Miner, Chas. Randal, Guy Penwell, J. B. McLean, Miss A. Hovey, Miss Annie Potter, Miss Julia McLean, Miss Lucy Freeman."

"Honor Roll pupils Feb., 1884 - Total pupils in school 351 - Bertha Singer, Geo. Fleck, Charlie Littlefield, George Kerr, Daisy Latimer, John Strain, Winnie Weaver, Johnny Singer, Philip Sale, Walter Hovey, Albert Bess, John Kinney, Lelia Whitten, Katie Strain, Laura Hill, Celia Beeler, Glenn Rhoades, Lucy Frasier, Nathaniel Brophy, Tom Kinney."

On January 9, 1872, the Nokomis National Bank received a charter to conduct business. National banks are chartered for only twenty years.



First Presbyterian
Church and Parsonage

"G. A. R. Camp - Fire, Oct., 1884. Five thousand present. Mayor Singer gave address of welcome. Oconee band furnished music. Local music by Misses Belle Freeland, May Taylor, O. H. Paddock, and N. E. Freeman."

"Mr. L. Manning has in successful operation a new brick manufacturing machine by which he is able to turn out from 12,000 to 15,000 bricks per day."

On the program at the County Teachers' Meeting was A. K. Vandever who talked on the subject "Punishment in School." 1887

"Dr. J. Osborne, our worthy veterinary surgeon performed quite a skillful operation on a cow of Mr. H. Sperry's last week." 1887

"Denman's store, corner of State & Pine, moved to corner of State & Spruce, Jan., 1879."



Denman's Store
Corner W. State & S. Pine



Legion Baseball Team

Back row: O. J. Stiehl, John Jaros, Pearl Crow, Emory Weakley, (unknown), Mike Pintar, William O'Malley, Elmer Wilson, Paul McGee, Gus Bowers, J. E. Anderson, James Thornhill, Nels Melin, Ike Smith, Lawrence O'Malley, Mel Digman, J. Jaros (mascot).

"Mr. Thomas Triffet was given a contract to build an addition to the school house (\$3,500)."

"Montgomery County Teachers' meeting in Nokomis, Oct. 12, 1889. 67 teachers present."

Niagara Falls excursions - round trip \$7.00.

"Ladies' and gentlemen's burial slippers for sale."

"The Nokomis library is in a flourishing condition. It has recently added 25 new volumes and its exchequer is as yet not overdrawn." 1884

Town officers: Board of Trustees - H. N. Randle, E. G. Kerr, Abe Bowser, John Woltmann, John Hutton, W. E. Stokes; Town Clerk - Thos. Jett; Town Treasurer - Garrelt Carstens; Day Policeman - Wesley Snell; Night Policeman - John Manning; Street Commissioner - S. Hutton; Pound Master - Ben Callison; Justices of the Peace - C. A. Schaper, H. M. Todd. (Feb., 1889.)

"Notice: The size of our town is altogether too small compared with the amount of water melon rines that are tossed promiscuously about in our streets." 1884

Waiting For The Train

On Picnic Day!





Ed Fowler—driver,

Geo. Engelman's grocery

"Latest fashionable amusement is the 'progressive picnic'. It is conducted in this manner: The couples start on a moonlight night in buggies; at every half mile a short stop is made; the gentleman alight, change buggies and, consequently, partners. This is continued until each gentleman has made the rounds. It is said the fashion originated in the mind of a well-known society man who found it rather tedious to entertain a solitary lady for a couple of hours."

"Lawrence Manning received a patent for his new brick kiln - Sept., 1887."

"Party for little Harry Pinkerton to celebrate his third birthday — Sept., 1878."

"Donkey Club gave notice to the young ladies of the Methodist & Lutheran Churches that they would take up positions on each side of the church steps on Sunday immediately after the service."

"Nokomis Ladies' Band played at Palmer for a picnic. The Taylorville band of men also played there. No such music was ever heard. The men tried to captivate the ladies. We suspect the two bands will soon consolidate."



Yackle's Shoe Store



Shannon & Best

General Store

First annual commencement of Nokomis Public School, May 20, 1887. Hugh Archibald gave the address of welcome. Music by Nokomis Male Quartette - A. J. Williford, John Paddock, Alf Griffin, Joe Paddock. Miss Millie Haller gave the valedictory address. Each graduate (4) gave essays: "Benefits of Discontent," "White-wash," "Voices of the Wind," "Dignity of Labor."

"Machinery has arrived for the Nokomis Creamery, and it will soon be placed ready for operation - June 3, 1887."

"Hartsock's mill has a new roller process to be placed in operation soon. Finest in the state."

"New school house in Audubon Twp. Sept. 18, 1878."

"Good hotel accomodations at the Nokomis House on Front St. operated by J. W. Hancock. Later changed to Eureka House on corner of Front St. and N. Spruce St."

Train schedule in 1887 showed 4 passenger trains westbound and 3 east bound each day. (That was accomodation).

Kerr Hardware Store





Dr. W. C. Hovey



First Autos In Nokomis

Joseph Brenner—Jerome Taylor

"Wanted - An elevated walk on the south side of State St. for the benefit of those who live on the second floor."

"Attention is called to 'pig-hole' ditch on the south side of State St.; also to the broken eggs, straw, broken dishes, papers, rags, etc. which are constantly accumulating. Town officials, please take action." 1878

"The Greenbackers postponed their meeting Sunday eve at the brick yard because a Garfield meeting was being held at the same place." 1878

"Miss Julia Matkins will commence teaching a select school in the public school house May 5, 1879."

Ruins Caused By Fire

Todd & Snell Store

Schaper Drug Store

Weinstein Store



Remember the high school contests in athletics, declamations, orations, etc.? All day out on the track and field, then at night all sunburned and tired, the crowd gathered in the Weaver Hall for the speeches! Real, honest-to-goodness school spirit!

Remember skating on the old mill pond and the reservoir?

Remember the LaPearl Circus, Pullen shows, and the Kickapoo Indian Saginaw Medicine shows in the Weaver's Hall; they played "Ten Nights in the Bar Room," "East Lynn," etc.?

Remember opening night at the Holmes Opera House with the box seats filled to see the "Rajah of Bong?" Bills for the "Rajah of Bong" were still pasted on the dressing room doors just a few years ago.

Remember the basket ball games and roller skating around the posts in Weaver's Hall?

Remember the muddy roads, wood side-walks, fences around all the yards, bustles, pompadours, chokers, high button shoes, sweeps on the dresses even in school?

Remember when Albert Kroll blew his horn when his bread was baked in the Snell Bakery?

Remember the sound of the old school bell? What became of that old bell?

Remember the street sprinkler and the kids that followed on hot days? The hokey-pokey ice cream wagon? The scissors grinders and umbrella menders? Horse races out at the old race track? Chautauqua at Bone's Grove where people camped for the week? Church socials in the homes? Open house on New Year's Day? Tramps from door to door and they left their mark on the gate posts?

Remember when the 7:40 p. m. train from the west came in nightly and all the boys & girls—yes, and the oldsters too—went to the depot, then to the Post Office? Dates, chats, fun!! When the office closed at 6 p. m. every one thought the town was ruined! 1896.

Who remembers the bench between trees in front of the Handshy home (now the Scheller auto repair shop)? Yes, and the well at the side—another trysting place! 1896.

Remember when the Rhine and Archibald boys, west of town, came to shool in a big bob sled and picked up all the kids on the way? 1896.

Remember the sack lunches at noon on days when the weather was too bad to go home as we usually did? Then there was a full hour at noon. The youngsters met in little groups and exchanged a hard boiled egg for cookies. No hot lunches then. 1896.

Remember when H. C. Miller, his brother, and the high school boys serenaded many when Mr. Miller's brother was in town? 1896.

Remember how everyone ran out to see those first autos when the unfamiliar honk was heard?

Who remembers the creek that ran between the Palace Theatre and the Hulbert Hardware, down Main St. and across the railroad?

Remember the graduation exercises when each graduate gave an oration? How interesting!!

An Early Accident

Now that the hoop skirt seems to be on its way back, we are reminded of a story told by the late George N. Uzzell of his sad experience with a pair of hoops. Mr. Uzzell had escorted a young lady to church who was wearing hoops. They went on horseback as was customary in those days, and of course all ladies rode a side saddle.

On arriving at the church, the girl got the hoops caught on the saddle horn and couldn't dismount. The young man did his best to help her but as she was a chunky sort of girl, he could not lift her high enough to unhook the hoop; so he did the only thing possible, that is, he went around on the right side of the horse, unbuckled the saddle girth and, using it as a block and tackle, lowered the girl to the ground to the very great amusement of the entire congregation. Apparently this incident broke up the romance, for he later married Miss Anna Battles who lived within walking distance of the church.

"Mr. Alonzo Holmes is supremely blest in the possession of a handsome bride. He was married in Patoka to Miss Lilly H. Johnston of that city."



O. H. Paddock Lumber Company

"Maggie Hartsock having completed a course in music at Shurtleff College in Alton is ready to teach piano and organ." Jan. 1889.

Miss Emma Scales has a school in Morrisonville."

"Our city has recently procured and put up new street lamps and has hired a man to keep them lighted and in proper order. However, the lights seldom burn so the tax payers are objecting." 1878



J. Archibald

Livery Stable

N. Spruce St.



Nokomis' First Fire Truck

"S. T. Striders observed their golden wedding anniversary Oct., 1878."

"Jacob Haller and Isaac G. Hubbard are building new homes on their farms." 1878

Hose Carts—Hand Pulled

"Round trip excursion to St. Louis \$2.25."

"Prairie House - J. S. Bone, proprietor, Front St., north of depot."

"\$8.00 round trip to Niagara."



Ready for a Sunday

Afternoon Drive



Nokomis' Second Fire Truck

"A protest against the practice of some who leave church during the devotional exercises. Very much out of place. Advice, If you are not going to stay through the service, do not go in but stay out and save your credit and good name."

Officers of Nokomis H. S. literary society: Hubert Manning, pres., Carl Schwartz, v. pres.; Nellie Parker, sec.; Grace Cole, treas. Katie Strain, critic. 1887

"One of the best stories written from a picture was handed in by Ida Travis - No. 6."



**Charlie Kerr's Winton
Six Ready for the Parade**

**Gene Holmes
Gladys Best
Jaclyn Argo
Vera Holmes**

May 22, 1891

J. Woltmann & Co. are making arrangements to begin work on their new brick building by the first of June. The structure will be 30x90 and one story. They expect to utilize their old building as a chicken house.

January 7, 1891

Frank Yackle on Wed. moved his household goods from this city (Hillsboro) to Nokomis, where he opened a boot and shoe repair shop.

The people of Nokomis will have to look long and searchingly before they will find a more honest or conscientious boy than Frank.

He has had long experience in the business in which he now engages, and we hope the people of Nokomis will give him a fair share of their patronage.

January 12, 1891

The Post Office is now located in its new and commodious quarters in the Gelly building, and is as neat and convenient as the public could wish. In fact there is no office that will compare with it in the county. Postmaster Gelly certainly merits much credit from the public. The new quarters are well lighted and roomy.

"Mr. A Calihan celebrated Feb. 27, by inviting in a few friends and neighbors, the occasion being in gratitude for his release from Libby Prison on Feb. 27, 1865."

March 18, 1891

The pioneer party given last Wednesday night at Weaver's Hall is a pronounced event of the season. The object of this gathering was simply to promote socialability among the older people, and to have a good time in general.

In these respects the plan was a howling success, for jovial converse and good cheer predominated throughout the evening.

The company was large and all did justice to the supper when served. During the evening Mayor Randall was called upon for a speech. He happily responded by remarking that the various classes of society had had their turn on recent dates at similar social gatherings.

On January 7, 1890, George Whitten and Wells Tooley made an overland trip to Hillsboro on skates. The distance is 18 mile and their time was 2 hours 35 minutes.

In 1888 there were 165 log schools, 191 stone, 1439 brick, 10,413 frame. Average salary, male-\$52.93, female-\$43.09.

January 31, 1890, Roll of honor 208 out of 353.

March, 1890, Roll of honor 88 out of 359.

August 8, 1888

Until further notice the cider mill will be in operation on Tuesday and Saturday each week.

The mill is in excellent condition and will do your work quickly and well. Cider for sale at 10c a gallon.

F. C. Bender.

September 12, 1890

Postmaster Gelly has decided to erect a fine two story brick building on the lot where Gibson Bros. formerly conducted their restaurant.

The contract for erecting the building has been awarded Mr. Thomas Triffet.

April 30, 1886

Nokomis boasts of two cornet bands (the members of one are of gentlemen, the other, ladies), one glee club, and a string band, besides a well organized class in vocal music. We can truly be termed a musical as well as a progressing city.

May 21, 1886

One of our merchants purchased a lot of eggs one day last week and, in the afternoon of the same day, young chicks stepped forth from them.

November 12, 1886

Three good houses and lots for sale at \$250.00 each. Rent for \$4.00 a month (20% on investment). A bargain for some one.

November 20, 1886

R. T. Court of Springfield, deputy head consul of the Modern Woodman of America, is in town with a view of organizing a camp. The Modern Woodman is a secret society and at the same time a benefit fraternity.



J. Farner Residence & Store—Corner E. Central & Spruce

Our attention has been called to the violation of an ordinance relating to bathing inside the corporated limits. It is probable if the law on this question is not heeded, someone will have the penalty to pay." May, 1880.

"M. E. Church 'talking up' a bell for their church. Got it in Nov. 1878. Put up in Jan., 1879."

"W. E. Pennepacker was teacher at Oak Grove in Sept., 1887."

20 oz. loaf of bread - 5c.



The Kull Grocery Store



Old Mill and Feed Store

On The North Side

"A. F. Weaver, S. Denman, G. S. Upstone attended the G. A. R. encampment in Rock Island."

Restaurant placard: Plain Meals 20c; Extra orders 25 & 30c; Ham and eggs 15c; Luncheon 15c; Bread, Butter, Coffee 10c; Sandwiches 5c.

Ordinance 32 caused all saloons to close Monday, April 4, 1887.

1881

"B. F. Green - surgeon dentist."

"Rents in Nokomis 1/3 higher than in St. Louis."

"Nokomis Orchestra gave dances in Weaver's Hall."

"Local dramatic club gave 'Among the Breakers'. Music by Nokomis Orchestra."

"Coal mine talk, but not much interest."

J. Carstens & Son Elevator





Nokomis Country Club

Holmes
Opera House



Holmes Opera House



Ruins of Mr. John Carstens'
Home Caused by Cyclone May 18, 1883

"Eligible bachelors in 1896: E. Frank Draper, Dr. J. M. Sprinkle, Jesse S. Griffin, Albert Rhoades, Benton Brown, H. O. Pinkerton, Wm. McKown, N. B. Brophy, Henry Schwartz, Wm. Shannon, Albert Spannagel, Harry Wilson, Robert Paddock, A. J. Eekhoff, Maro Ekey, Matt Stobbs."

"Leap Year dance given by the Empire Club at Weaver's Hall." 1896

"Mr. Hagee had electric lights put in the hotel May, 1896." (Present location of Stiehl Funeral Home).

"C. H. Kempton installed a soda fountain in his drug store May, 1896."

"City Council removed the bridge on Maple St. near the Hagee House and put in a tile." May, 1896.

"School Board asked for water mains to be extended to the school for fire protection." 1896.

"Wheelmen's Club formed. 27 bicycles in front of Spannagel's store. The men rode to Hillsboro, Taylorville, and Raymond. Complaints came in that the riders didn't observe rules of the road." 1896.

"Croquet Club gave a strawberry festival on J. L. Manning's lawn. Pullen's band played." 1896.

Teachers hired: Horace Safford-Buckeye; Wm. McNeil-Tester; John Sellers- Walker; John Sullivan-Card's Grove; Ernest Mallory-Brewner; Omar Webster - Young; Maggie Marley-Avoca; Elisha Safford-Oak Grove; Fred Ernst-Starr; Myrtle Safford-Sherman. May, 1896.

School Library open from 2-3 o'clock each day and every other Sat. Charles Russell-librarian." 1896.

"Nokomis Drum Corps furnished music at Litchfield, Decoration Day." 1896.

"Mine talked up again—Dec., 1896."

"Good sewing machine to be exchanged for a good cow." 1887

June 20, 1890

Prof. W. B. Davis has finished the task of enumerating the school district. The result of his work shows that there are 397 males and 412 females over 21 years of age, and 345 males and 342 females under 21 years of age making a total of 1496 residing in the district.

Of these there are 687 under 21 and 188 under 6 years making 499 of school age.

There are 174 more persons in the district than in the corporation of the town; this deducted from 1496 would leave a population for the town of 1,322 or a gain of nearly 32½ percent in 10 years.

John Strider was the first man buried in Nokomis cemetery. A child was buried before Mr. Strider. Mr. Strider is the grandfather of Mrs. Rutherford German in Ohlman and Mrs. C. M. Travis in Nokomis.

September 16, 1891

Cashier A. J. Williford was in Chicago this week for the purpose of ascertaining the cost of an electric plant for the town. A plant to furnish 6 arc lights for the street and 150 incandescents will cost about \$4,000. Representatives of some of the responsible firms will be here in a few days for the purpose of inspecting the town, and a complete estimate will then be furnished.

November 25, 1891

Mr. Abe Bourquin has returned from the Fat Stock Show at Chicago bringing with him all the laurels for his herd of Brown Swiss cattle. He claimed to have beaten the record with one cow from his herd for milk and butter. In the test of three days the animal produced 245 lbs. of milk from which was made 9½ lbs. of butter. With this test Mr. Bourquin has the distinction of owning the finest dairy stock in the United States.

"In a publication of this type, errors are unavoidable and are regretted; however, such errors of omission, commission, misspellings and oversights will be rectified and acknowledged in the bi-centennial edition which will be published in 2056. Kindly contact the committee at that time."

Book Committee



Back row: Agnes Carstens, May Van Hoosier, Fan Carstens
 Middle row: Lucy Frazier, Emma Van Hoosier, Henry Randall (director), Flo Handschy,
 Nell Randall
 Front row: Elizabeth Snell, Lou Whitmore, Laura Anderson



An early Nokomis parade
 with Holmes Opera House
 in right foreground and
 Weaver's Hall right back-
 ground.



Presbyterian Ladies' Aid Society

Front row: Mesdames May Davy, Gardner Stokes, Miss Mercy Riddler, Mesdames John M. Shoemaker, Rob't. Gelly, Sena Sawyer, Wilson, Gray, Rich Robinson, Wm. Archibald, M. Quick, Ulrici, Mary Hutton, Chas. Best, W. B. Evans.

Back row: Mesdames Carl Weakley, Christina Collier, Fred Law, Frank Schaper, John Baisch, Nellie Riddler Bryce, Mattie Upstone McClure, Chambers, Barkley, Miss Jennie Safford, Mesdames Albert Bess, Jennie Todd, Dora Law Crumbaugh, John Garrisine.



Clerks In Day & Upstone Store — 1879

Back row: Gus Bullock, John Upchurch, H. V. Bullock, Mr. Williamson

Middle row: George Schaper, John Aichison, Henry Runge, N. C. Freeman, Lafe Sawyer

Front row: Sim Welch, Mary Day, G. S. Upstone, J. H. Day



The Sphinx Club
or

The "Black Six"

Back row: Grace Cole,
Dora Crumbaugh, Nettie
Kerr

Front row: Lillian Span-
nagel, Lora Nims, Ollie Pul-
len

"The pink lunch given last Wednesday evening by the Ladies' Band, at the Commercial House, was well attended and was a success in every way."

"29 Postoffices in Montgomery Co.—Litchfield, largest, then Hillsboro, then Nokomis." 1887.

33rd Annual Montgomery Fair, Sept., 13-16, 1887.

"Fast horses at the racing park, April 1879."

"Many people froze to death. 26 degrees below zero - plenty ice for lemonade next summer." 1887

Baptist S. S. Class

Edna Hancock, Lulu Kerr,
Mary Hill, Lucy Kerr, Anna
Gipson, Nellie Hiett, Minnie
Wilson, Lulu Gage





Wagon and Blacksmith Shop—1892

J. Brenner (above), F. Hoeppner, "Eddie" Pannwitt, F. J. Pannwitt, T. Yackle



Law's Harness and Boot Shop



H. S. Basketball Team

Won County Championship two successive years. Went to State finals and lost to Bloomington.

J. Ford, E. Meinzer, Mr. Buellesfield (coach), H. Arnold, C. Best, B. Zimmerman, A. Williford

H. S. Track Team

E. Brockman, J. Ford, H. Arnold, M. Ford, J. Smith

Front row: B. Zimmerman, R. Shackle, A. Williford



H. S. Basketball Team

Won County Championship

C. Archibald, B. Zimmerman, R. Shackle, H. Busby, E. Meinzer, H. Arnold, A. Williford

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Centennial Book Committee submit this book as a souvenir for the Nokomis Centennial.

The assistance of the following in its preparation is worthy of special acknowledgment:

Mary Archibald for her poem,
"Song of the Nokomis Schools"

Meda Pennepacker Cassler for her poem,
"Our Town's Centennial"

Charles Turzak for cover design and art work
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All who bought space or sent in reminiscences, clippings
and pictures.

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